

THE TIMES

No. 65,650

MONDAY AUGUST 5 1996

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The Olympics: Britain's athletes have to settle for silver PAGES 21-25
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A-level record sparks standards row

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A-LEVEL pass rates are set to rise to record levels this month, boosted by the first major set of grades from "test as you go" modular courses. Ministers have been told to expect a leap of at least two percentage points in the pass rate and are braced for renewed charges that the "gold standard" of A level is being eroded.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will argue that the best-ever results

reflect the extra efforts of this year's students. But she is already preparing to tighten standards on the new-style courses, which critics insist are much easier to pass.

Better grades will trigger a scramble for places at traditional universities once results are published on August 15, as students are forced to compete for fewer vacancies in popular subjects.

Up to one in seven of this summer's 750,000 A-level entries is from a modular course, where students are examined as soon as they complete each unit of the

course — roughly equivalent to a term's work. Students can retake units as many times as they like and research has shown that the typical candidate achieves one grade higher than on a traditional A-level course examined after two years' study.

The pass rate has risen steadily from 72 per cent in 1987 to 84 per cent last year. However, an inquiry ordered by Mrs Shephard into standards after last year's record grades has been delayed until the autumn. Officials say exam papers from earlier decades have been

hard to find, but they were also keen to distance publication from this year's results in case it cast doubt on students' achievements.

The Times has learnt that Mrs Shephard will act in the autumn to curb the unlimited number of times a student can re-take units of modular A levels. This has been criticised as giving candidates an unfair advantage, and in most subjects only one retake per unit will be allowed.

Mrs Shephard is also considering a suggestion from Sir Ron Dearing, her chief curriculum ad-

viser, to ensure that half of a modular A level is examined at the end of the course instead of the current maximum of 30 per cent.

In another of a series of measures to answer the critics, examination boards will have to provide a wider range of questions for each modular unit to make "question-splicing" more difficult.

Modular courses have become hugely popular with sixth-formers since they were launched in mathematics, and this year's results are the first since they became widely available in English and the sci-

ences. Four out of five maths A levels completed this summer were modular — around 50,000 candidates — as well as half of all science courses, approximately 65,000 entrants, and one in ten English A levels, around 8,500 students.

In the only major study of standards in modular A levels, University of Newcastle researchers found the average grade in mathematics was C, compared to D on conventional courses. Only 4 per cent of modular candidates failed, compared with 22 per cent on traditional courses. Supporters

of the modular system say it motivates students to work throughout the sixth form for exams, rather than encouraging cramming at the end of two years' study.

Mrs Shephard recently showed her exasperation at criticism of the continuing rise in A-level grades. "If there is an improvement in marks it will be that the exams have got easier. If they are worse, it will be 'We told you so,'" she said. "It would be good, if there is an improvement, if some people thought fit to say so."

Pressure grows for US raids on Tehran

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN leaders in America, placing pressure on the Clinton Administration, last night urged military strikes against reported terrorist camps in Iran if the United Nations failed to persuade Tehran to close them.

The bellicose response from Capitol Hill came amid reports that calls and transmissions tracked by the CIA out of Tehran had "raised suspicions" of an Iranian connection to the TWA Flight 800 crash in which all 230 passengers and crew died.

Mounting evidence of the regime's involvement in the tragedy off Long Island last month and the attack on American forces in Saudi Arabia in June came after confirmation by the Pentagon yesterday that the detonator and explosives which killed 19 American airmen in Dhahran indicated the hand of international sponsorship.

American forces in the region have been placed on the highest alert status for fear of further raids and the Clinton Administration is viewing as "very serious" a new threat of high-powered transportable mortars, said to be made in Iran.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, demanded that the UN take immediate action to close 11 training camps in Iran, reported to have trained guerrillas who bombed Amer-

ican military targets in Riyadh last November and, most recently, in Dhahran.

"If the Iranians refuse to close them down, I think that there are a number of military means capable of closing them down," said Mr Gingrich, referring to the possibility of American military and air strikes against Iran.

Although William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said no connection had been made between the Dhahran bombing and the TWA crash, a report in Time magazine today quotes a well-placed American intelligence source stating that the CIA and FBI, who have been monitoring all communications out of Iran, are suspicious of an Iranian link to the air disaster.

The CIA is analysing its own intelligence and that of the National Security Agency on a meeting of terrorist leaders in Iran the month before the crash to see if a green light was given for the attack.

At the same time, the FBI is looking at the movements of Hussein Mikdad, an alleged Hezbollah terrorist purportedly backed by Iran. In April, Mr Mikdad flew from Zurich to Tel Aviv with bomb parts hidden in hand luggage. Eight days later he blew off his legs while assembling a bomb in an east Jerusalem hotel. FBI agents are now being dispatched to Israel to study his methods for any signs of bombcraft that may be traced to Flight 800.

Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's Foreign Minister yesterday wrote to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, asking him to take action against what he called an American campaign accusing his country of terrorism.

TWA roof clues, page 9
Iran defies US, page 9
Letters, page 17



The Princess Royal with her husband Tim Lawrence talking to the Duke of Edinburgh on their way back to Britannia at Cowes. Page 5

BMA backs doctor who aborted twin

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS' leaders last night defended as ethical a leading obstetrician's decision to abort a healthy twin whose single mother cannot cope with two babies.

The British Medical Association described the case as "no different from any other abortion" but churchmen and pro-life campaigners condemned the operation as horrific and morally wrong.

Professor Phillip Bennett, of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, west London, describes his patient as a 28-year-old woman who already has one child and is in strained circumstances. It is believed to be the first "selective termination" of its kind in Britain.

The operation is usually performed in cases of artificially fertilised multiple preg-

Garden expert dies after fall

Geoff Hamilton, presenter of *Gardeners' World* and Britain's best-known gardener, died yesterday after falling from his bike during a charity cycle ride.

Mr Hamilton, 59, from Rutland, who has presented the show on BBC2 since 1979, collapsed while riding near Merthyr Tydfil. He had suffered a heart attack a year ago. Page 5

Balloch cashes in on Oasis

More than 80,000 Oasis fans engulfed the tiny Loch Lomond-side town of Balloch for a two-day extravaganza. Local people cashed in with farmers letting fields for parking at £5 a time and camping at £10 a tent. The Balloch Hotel sold five times as much beer as in a normal week and the parish priest put on two extra Masses. Pages 5, 15

How to teach your old dog new tricks

By RUSSELL JENKINS

SCIENTISTS have discovered that pet owners can turn their dogs into smarter animals by treating them like sheepdogs, police alsatians or guard dogs.

Owners are being encouraged to play sophisticated hunting games with their pets so as to put the animals back in touch with their instincts.

Animal behaviourists at a pet therapy conference at Cambridge University were told that, in a scientific comparison with working dogs, the average household dog has grown enfeebled by an overdependence on its master. Working dogs, which have to sleep outside, are simply smarter, more alert and inquisitive than the pampered golden labrador.

Pet therapists have devised a "tough-love" regime to re-

solve the canine-identity crisis. Dr Anthony Podberscek, of the University of Cambridge veterinary school, said owners who treated dogs like people could cause behavioural problems in their pets. Under the regime, dogs are not allowed to sleep in owners' bedrooms or to sit on their laps when they watch television.

A team of academics from L. Eotvos University, in Javorka, Hungary, took 16 companion dogs and 12 working dogs and, in the presence of their owners, asked them to forage for a "hidden" dish of food. Working dogs were much more successful at finding the food while the pets simply looked helplessly at their owners for guidance on what to do.

Leading article, page 17

Olympic Britons forced to sell kit

By JOHN GOODBODY

TWO British divers have been so desperate for money that they have been forced to sell their official Olympic kit to local Americans.

As the debate continues on the underfunding of British sport in the wake of the worst performance at the Olympics since 1952, Robert Morgan and Tony Ali, who are unemployed, spent the weekend bartering with tourists to raise money for a night out to celebrate the end of the Games.

Morgan, 29, the 1990 Commonwealth high-board champion, said: "We are skint. We are desperate for money. We have no sponsorship and we are selling the gear to have a night out."

Morgan, 13th in the high-board competition, gets an elite £15,000 grant from the Sports Aid Foundation to cover training expenses. Ali, 22, who trains with Morgan in Sheffield, and finished 18th in the springboard competition, receives less than £5,000 from the foundation.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, yesterday told *Welt am Sonntag*, a German newspaper, that the Games could have been better and he would not support a privately-funded Olympics again.

Turning the tables, page 7
Leading article and letters, page 17
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"Specialist subject: British gold medalists in the 1996 Olympics"

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



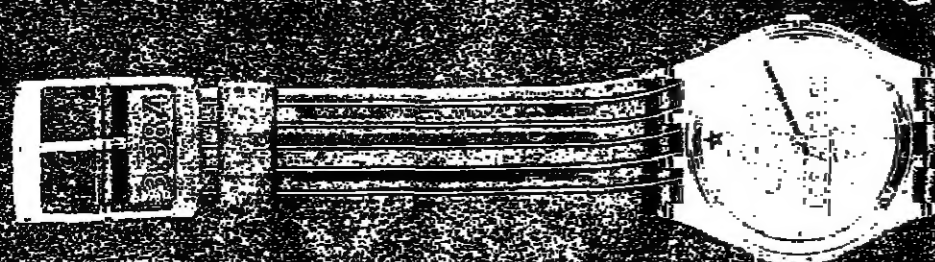
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SEBASTIAN COE: THE FASTEST GENTLEMAN OF ALL TIMES.



OLYMPIC LEGENDS BY SWATCH.

swatch



THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

Part 2 of our series
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The Libby Purves column

MIND WATCHING

WEDNESDAY

FASHION
No sweat sportswear
PLUS:
Free copy of Focus magazine

THURSDAY

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Geoff Brown on Independence Day
PLUS:
Dr Thomas Stuttaford's medical briefing

FRIDAY

POP
Alex Reece, rising star of drum 'n' bass
PLUS:
The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY

ROYAL SCANDAL The Romanov burial plot
PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT TOKENS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FREE FLIGHTS WITH VIRGIN

Fears persist of Labour spending

Wavering Tory supporters drift back to the fold

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WAVERING Tory voters are beginning to return to the fold, according to a City survey that shows the persistence of traditional fears over Labour's tax-and-spend policies.

The elusive "feelgood" factor finally appears to have returned and, had its effect on the voting intentions of the 1,000 people surveyed, who voted Conservative at the last election.

But the poll shows that the Tories failure to rule out a single currency before the next election could cost John Major dear. Up to 30 per cent of the waverers were prepared to consider voting for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party.

Yesterday, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, gave warning that a decision on a single currency could not be postponed for too long. Pressed on his views by the GMTV Sunday programme, Mr Portillo stuck to the government line that the question of whether to join a European monetary union could be deferred, but added: "This is a big decision and it is coming. The decision as to whether we



Portillo: issued warning over decision on EMU

should join a first wave is coming quite soon."

Despite the Conservatives' troubles over Europe, the party's policies were preferred by 59 per cent of those asked, compared with only 15 per cent who preferred Labour. The survey, which was conducted for James Capel, the stockbrokers by Opinion Re-

search Business, shows tentative signs of a Tory revival. Support for the Tories among those who voted for them last time is 79 per cent, the highest figure since the private quarterly surveys began in April last year.

The big improvement in the feelgood factor, which we first noted in January, has been sustained and, against a background, where house prices and consumer spending are reviving, appears to be filtering through to the political preferences of our panel. Our poll is starting to suggest that the Tories may have turned the corner with those who voted for them in the last election," the survey says.

The Labour leadership will be dismayed by the results. Voters on the panel have not been convinced by the intensive propaganda drive to banish the image of Labour as the party of high spending and high taxes.

The increase in Tory support coincides with an 10 per cent rise over the same period to 76 per cent in the number of voters who feared they would pay more taxes under Labour.

The survey divides the voters into "lost Tories" who are pro-Tony Blair and the "waverers" who are on the Euro-sceptic wing of the party and inclined to vote for the Referendum Party.

However, even loyal Tories on the panel are not convinced Mr Major can win enough support from these groupings to be returned to power; 47 per cent believe that Labour will win the election.

Taxation, trade unions, law and order, and Labour's left wing remained the biggest fears that Conservative voters had of a Blair government.

The survey showed that 15 per cent of the panel found Mr Blair "insincere" and not "trustworthy".

Labour only outscored Tories over the health service but Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, will take the fight to Labour with the publication in the autumn of a White Paper. It will make clear that the radical reforms of the past decade are over.

Mr Dorrell's plans include improving supervision for the mentally ill by creating more units with 24-hour nursing cover and an increase in the number of local cottage hospitals.

William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 16

Cabinet divided on handgun ban

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A CABINET split has opened over the private ownership of handguns, regardless of the result of the Dunblane massacre inquiry. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is urging a total ban, but Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is pressing for the Government to accept the recommendations of Lord Cullen even if they fall short of a prohibition on possession of guns above .22 calibre.

The Prime Minister, who visited Dunblane with Michael Forsyth, the local MP, is widely thought to back an outright ban. One party official said: "I have heard him say: 'I don't understand why people need to have guns at home.'"

Labour is poised to exploit the issue by forcing a Commons vote after the summer recess, to try to flush out the pro-gun lobby on the Conservative backbenches. Mr Howard has made clear he would override Tory MPs' objections and bring forward the neces-

sary legislation to ban handguns, if Lord Cullen's report concludes that is the best solution. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, announced at the weekend that Labour would bring in legislation after the general election to ban handguns irrespective of the result of the inquiry.

Mr Major is furious that the issue has become the centre of party politicking with the Labour Party. A Tory official said: "We play by different sets of rules. We wait for the result of the Dunblane inquiry. Labour is making political capital before the report is even completed."

Both Mr Major and Mr Howard have distanced themselves from the six Tory MPs on the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee who argued last week that a ban would be impractical. Reports that they were being used by ministers to test the reaction were dismissed last night. "It was a cock-up not a conspiracy," said a party source.



Professor Bennett: decided which foetus to destroy

Aborted twin

Continued from page 1
tion rather than giving birth to both babies. "Killing one healthy twin sounds unethical. But my colleagues and I concluded this week that it would be better to terminate one pregnancy as soon as possible and leave one alive than to lose two babies."

Vivienne Nathanson, head of ethics at the BMA, said: "The legislation is there to say that babies born when the women don't want them are often psychologically harmed. I don't think there's really any difference between performing an abortion to leave one foetus and reducing a twin to a singleton."

Dr Nathanson pointed out that nature often destroys one twin. "A lot of babies born as singletons started off as a twin pregnancy. They don't seem to come to any harm."

Ian Craft, director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre in Harley Street, one of the first British doctors to perform selective terminations for medical reasons, said: "It is not an easy job to do from a doctor's perspective because you have to make a decision which foetus will survive."

"When you have to reduce one of two or two of four, you

have heartache over doing it." He aborted a twin from a 45-year-old woman who had suffered seven miscarriages, the latest of them at 25 weeks. She was unable to carry twins because of cervical problems. On New Year's Day eight years ago, her other twin was born healthy.

One German doctor had to perform selective abortions after a woman on fertility drugs became pregnant with 12 babies.

It is a difficult operation which only a handful of British experts can perform. There is a risk of the whole pregnancy aborting if things go wrong.

Professor Bennett, who is childless, was given a newly created professor's chair at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in January to keep him in Britain after attempts to poach him by the United States and Canada.

A Christian who regularly attended church as a child, he has performed 3,000 abortions in 10 years, and delivered almost as many live babies.

Jack Scarisbrick, chairman of Life, the anti-abortion campaigners, said: "Commonly a sibling intuitively that a brother or sister is missing. What does that do to his or her respect for parents?"

Woman killed in pothole accident

A potholer was among four people killed at the weekend while taking part in various activities. Christine Bleakley, 24, for Irvinestown, Co Fermanagh, slipped off a rope ladder while descending Quaking Pot in the Yorkshire Dales. In Snowdonia, a 33-year-old climbing instructor from Suffolk died when he fell from a crag while climbing with a companion on 2,527ft Moelwyn Mawr.

The pilot of a micro-light aircraft died when it crashed into high-voltage electricity cables and burst into flames at Wyke Champflower, Somerset, and a cyclist taking part in a time trial road race was killed in a crash with a coach at Boreham, Essex. The men have not been named.

Essex pimpnery

A 14-year-old girl who sparked an international police search after she ran away from her Essex home to see her boyfriend in France was sent back to Britain yesterday. Clair Syddall had stowed away on a Channel ferry when the young French boy she had met on holiday in Brittany failed to reply to her letter.

Fans wreck ferry

Two people were arrested at Portsmouth after drunken football fans rioted on a Channel ferry after being thrown out of France. About 100 Portsmouth fans were returning on the P&O ferry after a friendly match against Athletic Le Havre on Saturday. The match had been abandoned after fans invaded the pitch.

Safety campaign

National Condom Week starts today - with celebrities helping to spread the word about safe sex. The campaign follows a report that nearly one in five 16 and 17-year-olds had unprotected sex last year. Supporters of the campaign include Blur, Kim Wilde, Sting, Linford Christie, Chris Tarrant and Dr Hilary Jones.

Prison warning

Prison governors warned the Government yesterday of possible outbreaks of disorder because of overcrowding. Chris Scott, chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, has called on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, for a cut in the prison population in England and Wales - now a record 56,000, up 5,000 from last year.

Bristow charged

Eric Bristow, the darts player, has been charged with assaulting a television lighting technician after an incident at a Blackpool hotel, police said yesterday. Bristow, in the resort for the World Matchplay Championship, will face Blackpool magistrates on September 13 accused of assault and a minor public order offence.

Sand, sea and...

Blackpool is Britain's sexiest seaside resort, while Rhyll and Weston-super-Mare are the least raunchy, according to a survey published yesterday. Torquay was second, and Bournemouth third. The findings come from a survey commissioned by condom company Durex of 1,350 adults asked to name the hottest resort for sex.

BSE link to milk dismissed

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Agriculture Ministry yesterday dismissed claims that mad-cow disease (BSE) could be carried in milk and denied that ministry scientists were conducting new tests.

The claims, published in a newspaper report yesterday, were untrue, a ministry spokesman said. "We are happy that milk is safe, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) is happy, and the Chief Medical Officer is happy," he said. The ministry bases its confidence on research carried out by scientists from the Institutes for Animal Health in Edinburgh

and Newbury, Berkshire, and the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Weybridge, Surrey. The results were published in the *Veterinary Record* in June 1995.

The team fed milk from cows with BSE to mice for 40 days, then observed the mice for a further two years. They also injected milk from a BSE-infected cow into the brains and skin of mice, a route which is far more likely to cause infection. These mice, too, were observed for periods of up to two years.

No signs of the disease appeared in any of the mice, the team reported. The amount of milk the mice were given to drink was equivalent to a human being drinking a pint of milk a day from an

infected cow for almost seven years. Dr Hareesh Narang, a scientist who has been a persistent critic of the ministry over BSE, described these tests as "worthless". He says that milk should have been fed not to mice, which cannot drink a great deal of it, but to mink, which can consume as much as the average baby.

However, the fact that infection was not passed on through injected material suggests that milk is safe. The injection route is estimated to be 20,000 times more efficient than the oral route in causing infection. The same strain of mice injected with other organs from infected cows, such as brain and spinal cord, have developed the disease.

Lilley hotline against cheats

BY ANDREW PIERCE

PLANS for a national telephone hotline for confidential information on suspected benefit cheats are to be announced today by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, as he announces that savings from detected benefit fraud virtually doubled to almost £1.4 billion in the last financial year.

The scale of the attempted fraud was up from £717 million last year. Only three weeks ago, the Government closed down a hotline handling inquiries about benefit entitlements.

Mr Lilley hopes to save tens of millions of pounds more from the establishment of the new hotline for

tip-offs. He will unveil the first of thousands of posters which proclaim: "Know a benefit rip-off. Give us a telephone tip-off." The point will be driven home in a series of newspaper advertisements.

Henry McLeish, Labour social security spokesman, said yesterday that the new hotline could lead to a spate of malicious calls. "I suspect in terms of civil liberties there may be a problem." Liberty, the civil rights organisation, made clear that the initiative did not appear to infringe anyone's personal freedoms.

Statistics due to be released tomorrow by the Unemployment Unit, an independent research group, show that a record number of unemployed people have had

their benefits cut in the past two years.

About 238,000 claimants had benefit reduced or removed for not meeting jobseeking conditions to be available for work, and 79,000 lost money for not attending or completing "remotivation" courses. They are compulsory for the long-term unemployed who refuse to take up the offer of a place on a mainstream government scheme.

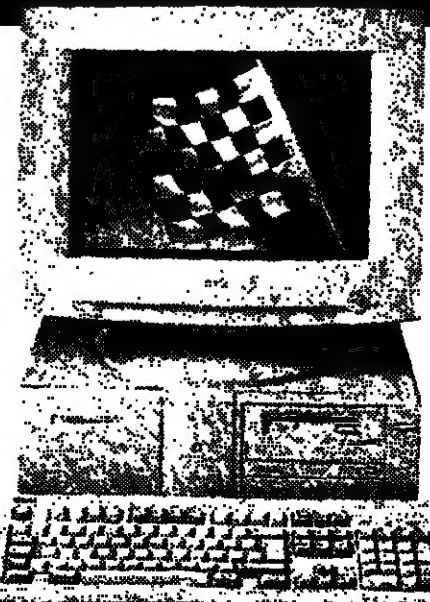
Oliver Heald, a Social Security Minister, said: "This hotline will be self-financing and it gives people the opportunity to be the eyes and ears for us."

He added that Pilot schemes in 21 areas since April had brought "an overwhelming response".

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Mystery over ransom demand

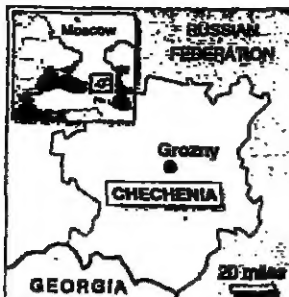
Fears for missing Briton as Chechen rebels deny kidnap

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

FEARS were growing last night for the safety of a British relief worker kidnapped in Chechnia after the French aid organisation for which he works said that it would be unable to pay a ransom.

Michael Penrose, 23, from Swerford, Oxfordshire, and his colleague, Frederic Malardeau, 35, were seized on July 27 while driving to their office in Grozny, the capital of the rebel republic which is at war with Russia. The Foreign Office in London said that it was working closely with the Russian authorities, which have set up a task force to find the two men, as well as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has a mission in Grozny.

Josef Bilgin, the head of Mr Penrose's agency, International Action Against Hunger, said that he had not received any ransom demands and could not confirm the Russian report that the unidentified gunmen were demanding \$300,000 for the release of his staff. He said: "For the time being no one has contacted us, we have received no ransom demand. In any case, sums like that... We work in the humanitarian field, to feed



people who die of hunger, and not to pay ransoms."

Interfax, the Russian news agency, reported that a telephone caller, identifying himself as Bolat Adayev, claimed responsibility for the abduction and demanded \$500,000 (£300,000). Uncertainty over the men's fate was compounded by a denial by the Chechen rebels that they are involved.

The parents of the kidnapped Briton, David and Yvonne Penrose, who also have a student daughter, declined to comment. At the door of his house Mr Penrose, who is acting on the advice of the Foreign Office, said: "We don't want the press involved in this. The Foreign Office is dealing with everything for us. We just want to be left alone."

David Lang, 44, a neighbour, said: "The whole community will be shocked by this. David and Yvonne are very much part of the village. Michael is a very nice and dedicated lad. He is very down-to-earth and pleasant."

"He was here for a weekend just a couple of weeks ago just before he left. Our thoughts are with the family and I am sure they know everyone will do anything they can to help."

Mr Bilgin said that International Action Against Hunger had been working in Chechnia since November, providing food to civilians "without discrimination". It has set up soup kitchens in Grozny and other villages and towns in the area.

Its staff there consists of four foreigners, including the two kidnapped men, and 50 locals. The non-political and non-religious agency was founded in 1979 and has 270 volunteers in 27 countries.

No independent confirmation was available of the Interfax report that a ransom demand had come in a call from the southern Russian town of Krasnodar. The Foreign Office said that it could not comment.

Locating the gunmen responsible and winning the release of the two kidnapped victims is likely to be complicated by the deteriorating security situation in Chechnia, where Russian forces have kept up a recent offensive against rebel villages. The two men were bundled into a car by six gunmen, but their abduction was not reported until Saturday.

Earlier this year gunmen seized two members of the Médecins sans Frontières organisation in Chechnia, but released them unharmed after two weeks.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are in close contact with the authorities there. We're working hard for Mr Penrose's release and doing everything we can to help."

Igor Pogosov, press secretary of the Russian-backed Chechen Interior Ministry, said: "We received a phone call from someone who said he saw armed men bundle the two foreigners into a car in Grozny. Nobody has claimed responsibility."



Gifts from the crowd take pride of place as the Queen Mother is driven away in her golf buggy yesterday

Love by cartload for Queen Mother

By ALAN HAMILTON

JUST four years away from a congratulatory telegram from her daughter, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 96th birthday at Sandringham yesterday with the customary crowd-pleasing performance.

More than a thousand assembled in the heat of an Norfolk morning as she arrived in an open horse-drawn carriage for morning service at St Mary Magdalene church, Sandringham, accompanied by the Queen.

The Queen Mother was helped from her carriage and walked cautiously with her stick. Her left leg was still bandaged below the knee to hide a troublesome ulcer, but she showed no sign of discomfort from last November's hip operation. After the service, relayed outside by loud speaker, she made a 32-minute walkabout as the crowd sang Happy Birthday and For She's a Jolly Good Fellow, and thrust forward cards, flowers and champagne.

Afterwards she retired to her distinctive, chauffeur-driven golf buggy, to be driven around so that all could see her. Then she left for a birthday lunch, where she was joined by the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry.

The celebration was not held at her London home, Clarence House, because the royal family does not spend weekends in the capital.

Talks delayed after Russian air raid

Moscow: Russian warplanes bombed villages in southern Chechnia yesterday, killing or wounding dozens of people, a Chechen guerrilla spokesman said.

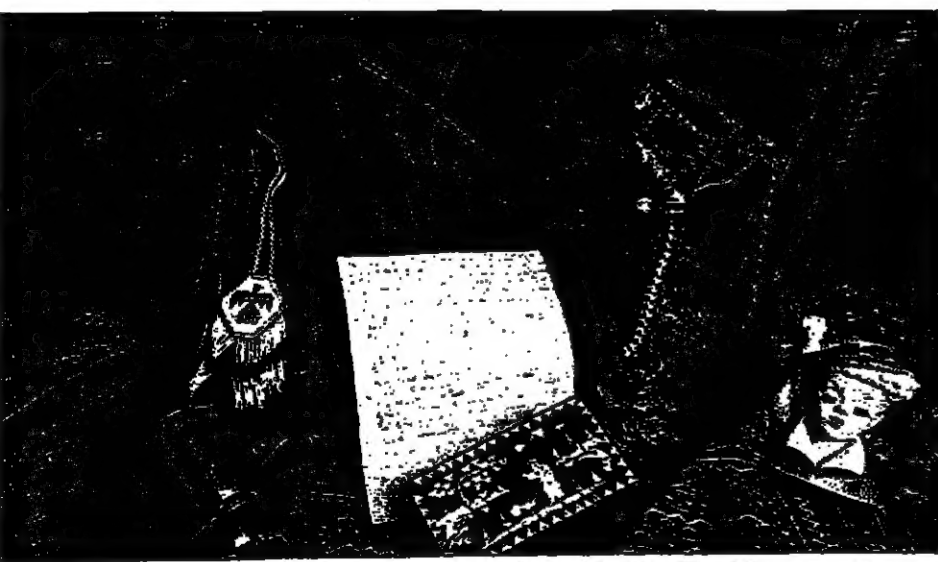
As a result of the attack, the Chechen rebel command refused to meet a Russian delegation that had travelled to Chechnia, according to Moscow Echo radio. "Under current conditions, the leadership cannot meet with the Russian side without running the risk of taking on some of the responsibility for the bloody criminal acts committed by the occupation army," the spokesman, Movladi Udugov, added.

The Interfax news agency quoted him as saying that the raids had centred on the villages of Borzoi and Guchin-

Kale, in the rebel stronghold region of Shatoi, 25 miles south of Grozny.

He gave no precise casualty toll and there was no immediate independent confirmation of the reported bombing. The Chechen side "sees no alternative to a peaceful political solution in the republic", Interfax quoted Mr Udugov as saying.

A Russian delegation led by the Nationalities Minister, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, arrived in Chechnia on Saturday and said that it was willing to meet Chechen guerrilla leaders. Fighting in the southern region, where Russian troops have been deployed since December 1994, has intensified since President Yeltsin was re-elected last month. (AFP/Reuters)



An art nouveau nude, "dope box" and lyric sheet with other Hendrix mementoes

Foxy lady puts Hendrix mementoes up for sale

By DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SHEET of lyrics by Jimi Hendrix, one of the few that the rock guitarist did not lose or throw away, is expected to fetch £10,000 in a sale that also includes the "dope box" in which he stashed some of his favourite song-inducing substances.

The black lacquer box with inlaid mother-of-pearl is being sold by Kathy Etchingham, Hendrix's girlfriend from 1966 to 1969. It is estimated to fetch £5,000 at Bonhams in Chelsea on August 22.

Ms Etchingham, who is said to have inspired Hendrix to write the songs *Foxy Lady* and *The Wind Cries Mary*, is selling 24 pieces, which she describes as some of Hendrix's favourite possessions. They were in the flat they shared at 23 Brook Street. He died in 1970, shortly after they broke up.

Bonhams describes the items as "evocative reminders of the psychedelic Sixties, an insight into Hendrix's life-style and taste: an ornate prayer-rug, strings of colour-



Hendrix with girlfriend Kathy Etchingham

ful beads, velvet cushions. "I'm glad you can't talk," Ms Etchingham said. "It's seen quite a lot."

The lacquer box is expected to appeal to a large number of collectors. "We called it the dope box," Ms Etchingham said, adding that it would be opened several times a night at least. The Sixties, she recalled, were "wonderful". However, she added: "I wouldn't want to relive it. As you get older, you look back

and think, 'How the hell did I do that?' It was always daylight before we went to bed."

Their relationship broke up, she said, as she could not endure the sycophants and hangovers. She soon met someone else, who was to become her first husband. "It didn't last long as it was based on passion. Jimi and I, we were more friends as well."

She is unsentimental about any of the objects, apart from an Austrian art nouveau figurine of a nude girl, estimated at £6,000. Hendrix had haggled for it with the owner of a cafe in Chelsea. "He didn't want to sell it," she said. "Jimi offered a lot of money for it. He really loved it. But one night, he bumped against the cabinet it was on. It fell off and broke. Jimi stuck it back together."

According to Bonhams' catalogue entry, "it was one of his favourite pieces, inspiring his lyrics and sexual energy". Ms Etchingham has authenticated the lyrics — an early draft scribbled on Hyde Park Towers Hotel notepaper — of *Ain't No Telling*, which was recorded on *Electric Ladyland*.

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Only days remain to find compromise on Londonderry march as bitterness lingers from Drumcree

Sectarian boycotts hit businesses across Ulster

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SHOPS and small businesses across Northern Ireland are suffering a severe loss of trade as sectarian boycotts spread throughout the Province amid bitter re-miniscences over last month's Drumcree stand-off. Protestant and Roman Catholic shopkeepers are being ostracised by customers they have served for years.

Yesterday a senior Roman Catholic bishop compared the fallout from Drumcree with Ulster's dark days of the late 1960s. Dr Seamus Hegarty, the Bishop of Derry, told BBC Radio 4: "There has been a re-

emergence of sectarianism, a polarisation of views to a degree and to an extent not experienced since the civil rights marches at the end of the 1960s."

In Castlederg, Co Tyrone, Protestant shopkeepers have been sent a circular letter telling them that nationalists were organising a boycott of their businesses. The letters, which have led to a drop in trade of up to 50 per cent, alleged that the shopkeepers had condoned "anti-Catholic, sectarian sentiment" by joining a loyalist blockade of the town during the Drumcree stand-off.

The letters, which were signed "Yours disappointed", said: "I'm

sure I have no need to inform you that I will no longer be giving you my custom and you can be assured that I will strongly advocate that my fellow Catholics in the community also boycott your shop."

Most Protestants in Castlederg refuse to speak about the boycott for fear of increasing the tension, but one shopkeeper said: "The letter is so sinister because it is all innuendo."

He was contemptuous of the claim that he had joined the loyalist blockade of Castlederg. He said: "Please credit us with a bit of intelligence. The blockade disrupted business."

There is also a boycott in

Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh, while in Drumcree, Co Tyrone, a group calling itself the Protestant Action Committee has threatened action against nationalists if attacks against Protestant property continue. The RUC condemned the statement, but said it had no knowledge of the Protestant group.

One of the bluntest messages came in a letter published in Omagh's *Ulster Herald*, which called for a wholesale boycott of Protestant businesses. The letter said: "Since the Orangemen are obviously against us we must stop giving them our money... Buy only from Catholic businesses and invest in your own people who

truly want civil rights." The letter was signed "General Boycott". Captain Charles Boycott, the agent for Lord Erne's estate, suffered the original boycott in Co Mayo in 1880. Thousands of Ulstermen travelled to Mayo to save his crops after he gave a graphic account of his plight in a letter to *The Times* in October 1880.

Unionists have condemned the present boycott of Protestant businesses and accused Sinn Féin of orchestrating the letter-writing campaign, a charge which republicans deny. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said that a lot of decent people from both communi-

ties would "go to the wall" if the boycotts continued.

Joe Byrne, an SDLP councillor in Omagh, Co Tyrone, condemned the boycott. But he said that nationalists felt aggrieved after Drumcree.

A meeting is to be held tomorrow to seek a compromise over the Apprentice Boys' controversial march in Londonderry next Saturday. Nationalists from the Bogside area, who oppose the parade route along the city's walls, have set Wednesday as a deadline for agreement.

earlier parades through sensitive areas. The Bogside Residents group wants all these parades included in any agreement. The sides have met twice and tomorrow will give their reactions to proposals exchanged last week.

The Bogside residents want the parade restricted to the commercial heart of the city and unionist areas, with just 13 Apprentice Boys — the number that closed the gates in 1688 — being allowed to parade the full length of the walls. The Apprentice Boys want to parade at least 250 members along the walls with the proviso that their bands stop playing as they pass the Bogside.

Complaints up by 50% in year of rail privatisation

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COMPLAINTS about late, cancelled and overcrowded trains have soared by up to 50 per cent since the start of rail privatisation. Figures to be published next week point to an alarming deterioration in services as passenger franchisees were prepared for sale at a cost of £450 million.

Complaints about late and cancelled trains each rose by a third to a total of more than 3,000, while punctuality levels fell on more than half of all rail lines, according to the figures from local passenger watchdog groups. Franchisees thought to have been criticised last year include West Anglia Great Northern, InterCity Cross Country, InterCity West Coast and the newly privatised South West Trains, which was affected by bad weather.

Overcrowded trains sparked the sharpest single increase in complaints, a rise of 50 per cent to more than 400, the first upturn in this category since the late 1980s. No new trains have been ordered in Britain since 1993, and some operators have been forced to lease old rolling stock from private rail-tour operators to cope with the problem.

The overall number of complaints received by local passenger groups rose to a record of about 11,000 last year, with the bulk of the increase related to punctuality and reliability. The figures include only the more serious complaints to the rail user committees, rather than complaints to BR or operators.

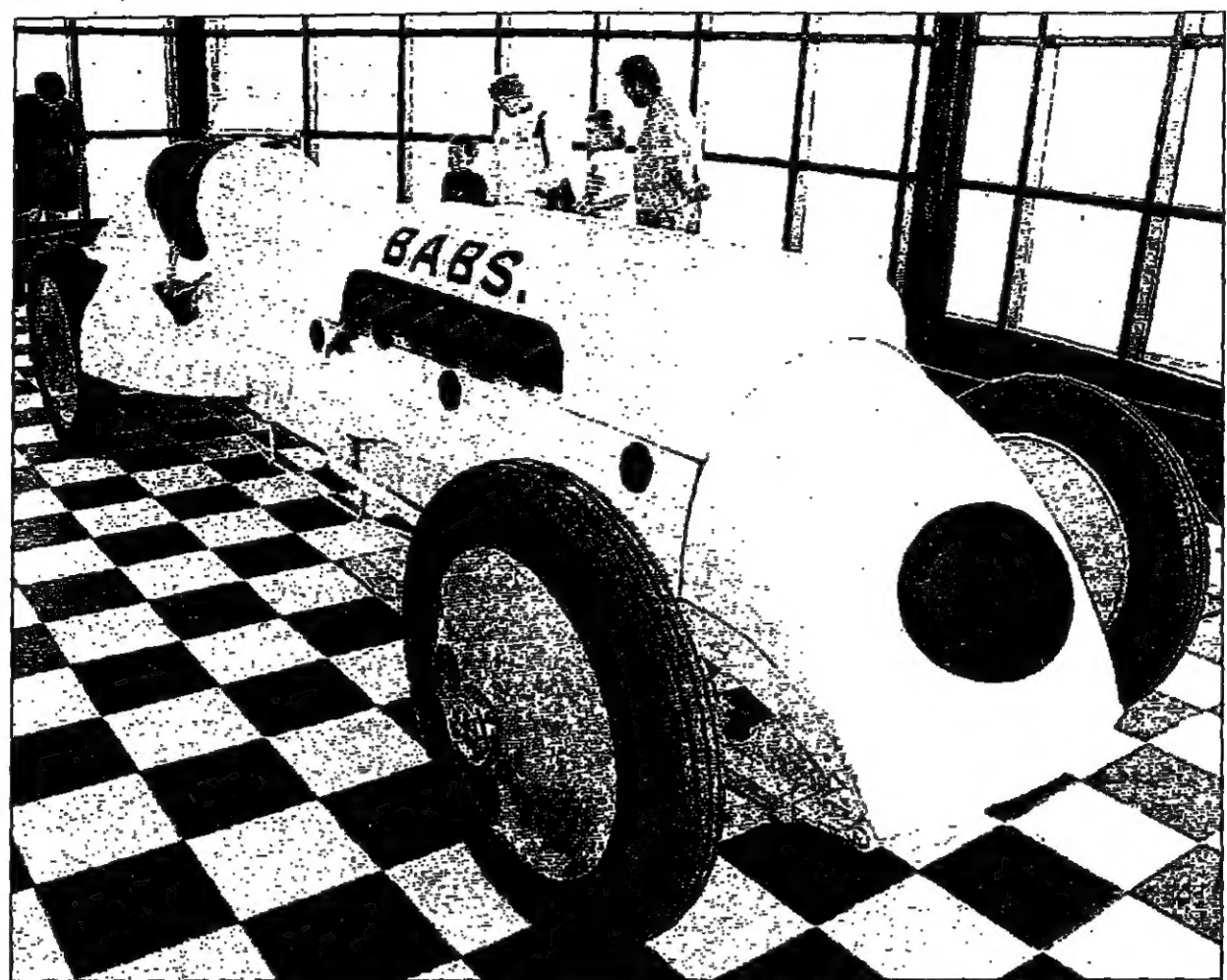
They apply to the year to

April, which was marked by the first handover of passenger franchises to private owners six months ago. The rise in complaints means that any improvements as a result of privatisation are unlikely to emerge in time to help the Government at the election.

The annual report from Central Rail Users Consultative Committee, the main passenger watchdog, paints a grim picture of the upheaval caused by restructuring. A committee source said that there was "practically no good news" on co-operation between train companies, with operators refusing to hold connecting trains for rival firms now that they are fined for running late.

However, there is support for many of the changes brought about by privatisation, which is three quarters complete. The report welcomes guaranteed "passenger service requirements" and a tough regime of financial incentives and penalties for operators. The report also praises the caps on some fares.

Labour will launch a dossier today, alleging "waste, lies and sleaze" to mark the first six months of privatised rail services.



The restored record breaker in the museum overlooking Pendine Sands, from where she was recovered after the death of her builder and driver, J.G. Parry Thomas

Record-breaker returns to scene of triumph and disaster

APRIL 23, 1926

NEW MOTORING "RECORDS"

168 MILES PER HOUR

Mr. J. G. P. Thomas, the well-known racing motorist, established new world speed "records" for both the mile and the kilometre on the sands at Pendine, Carmarthenshire, yesterday.

Mr. Thomas covered the mile distance in 3.58 mins. and the kilometre in 2.58 mins. His car, a 27-hp open-top car, was a 1926 model. The car was built by J.G. Parry Thomas at the wheel, she set a land speed record of 171.02mph. Parry Thomas died the following year, crashing the car while attempting to recapture the record from Malcolm Campbell, who had reached 174.8mph. *Babs*, 20ft long, fed by aviation fuel and pushing out 400 horsepower from a V12 Liberty aeroplane engine, was driven to the limit. She skidded and overturned just before the end

of the measured mile, the chain driving the wheels decapitating Parry Thomas, who had built the car.

His friends and colleagues were so distressed that they buried *Babs* on the spot which, in the 1920s, was regarded as the country's best record-breaking location because of the vast expanse of flat, hard sand. She was dug up in 1969 by Owen Wyn Owen, an engineer and car enthusiast from North Wales, who dedicated the next 16 years to her restoration. Mr Owen and his team had to shift more than 2,000 cubic feet of sand and a 9in concrete slab.

The aluminium-bodied *Babs* is now the main exhibit at the Museum of Speed, which was built

specially to house her overlooking the beach at Pendine.

Chris Delaney, Carmarthenshire Council's museums officer, said: "It is amazing how many people are fascinated by *Babs* and the land speed record. History was made at Pendine Sands many times and it is fitting that *Babs* has been returned here. She's still in working condition and, apparently, she can still do 100mph or so."

"She was buried back in 1927 because people were just so shocked by what had happened. These days there would probably be a police inquiry and the car would be taken for examination."

□ A 31-year-old Fiat made motor history at the weekend by fetching the lowest price ever at an auction by the car specialists Brooks. The 1965 600D two-door saloon, described as "a challenging restoration project", went for £92 at the sale at Ascot, Berkshire. It contrasted with a 1937 Mercedes-Benz 540K supercharged Cabriolet B once owned by the Rockefeller family, which sold to an Italian collector for £185,500.

□ A garage owner who spent much of his working life repairing Foden wagons was given a fitting send-off in the West Midlands. Sam Satterthwaite's coffin was taken to All Saints Church at Streedy on the back of a 1920s Foden steam lorry. Mr Satterthwaite, who worked up to his death at the age of 87, was an honorary president of the Foden Preservation Society.

Health staff 'squandered millions on computers'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE National Audit Office is investigating a report that a small group of health service bureaucrats wasted £500 million on virtually worthless computer systems.

Labour called on Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday to tackle the Information Management Group of the NHS Executive, whose task was to improve patient care and increase information by introducing new technology. Instead, hospital staff still have to perform many administrative tasks using laborious techniques, such as telephoning up to 40 wards at night in search of a spare bed.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that the Secretary of State should "take the whole information technology systems within the National Health Service by the scruff of the neck and sort them out because they aren't working well at the moment".

The auditors are studying documents obtained during an investigation by BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*. The National Audit Office and the Commons Public Accounts Committee have already condemned the management group for its handling of the Hospital Information Support Systems initiative, which cost £106 million and saved only £3 million. The price of monitoring the scheme exceeded savings to the taxpayer.

Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said chief executives were frustrated by the NHS Executive to sort them out.

Marshland idyll with cruel legacy of genetic disease

Medical Briefing



FOR many holidaymakers now sailing their boats on the Broads, life may seem idyllic. But nature has not been so kind to some of the long-established families in this part of east Norfolk. The area has a particularly high incidence of Huntington's disease, formerly known as Huntington's chorea, it is one of the cruellest of the hereditary neurological diseases.

This year the Huntington's Disease Association is 25 years old. It was set up after a report in a Sunday newspaper about a girl who discovered after marriage, and subsequent pregnancy, that her mother and grandfather were victims of the disease. The pregnant mother, and possibly her unborn child, therefore had a 50-50 chance of suffering from it as well. The association now collects nearly £500,000 a year for research and education into the disease as well as contributing to the welfare of sufferers.

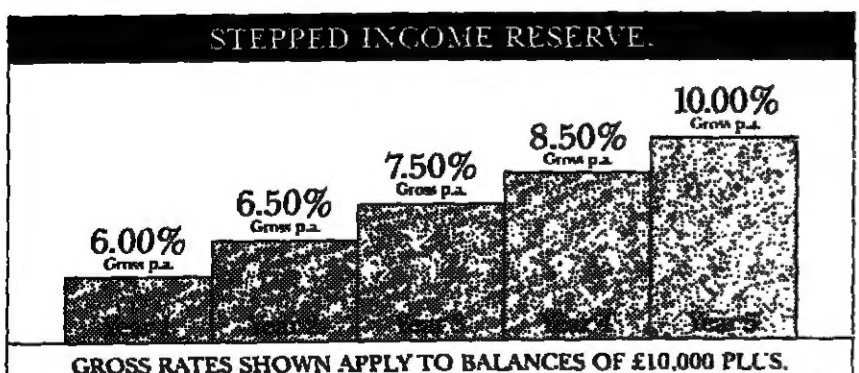
When in practice in Norfolk I had an almost daily reminder of Huntington's disease. An elderly sufferer used to spend much of his time walking, very unsteadily and with the aid of a stick, along the village street. Whenever he spotted my car, he stopped, gripped the stick like a Zulu spear, raised it above his head and let out an unintelligible greeting. His daughter — it affects both sexes equally — was also a

sufferer. The disease has an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance, which means that every child born to a parent with the disease has an even chance of developing it. The symptoms usually start in the late thirties. The disease affects both the part of the brain that helps to control muscular co-ordination and the higher centres. As a result the patient has an unsteady gait, clumsy movement and suffers involuntary muscular movements and facial grimaces. The dementia is progressive and is usually preceded by personality changes. Later the increasing dementia results in total apathy and loss of memory. The progress of the disease is slow. Patients can live up to 30 years before they totally lose physical and mental powers. Treatment is now aimed at alleviating the symptoms.

Accurate diagnosis is possible. The defective gene is carried on chromosome four. As Huntington's is usually only manifest after normal child-bearing age, this new-found ability to detect whether someone is carrying the defective gene, and therefore able to spread it to the next generation, has raised distressing ethical questions for the people involved.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

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John Smith

TV gardening presenter dies on charity bicycle ride

By ADAM FRESCO

Geoff Hamilton, the presenter of *Gardeners' World*, died yesterday after falling from his bicycle during a charity event.

Mr Hamilton, 59, who had presented the show on BBC2 since 1979, collapsed while riding near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. A nurse tried to resuscitate him and he was taken to hospital, but to no avail, the BBC said. Mr Hamilton had suffered a heart attack a year ago.

He had joined the ride — part of the Trailblazers ride — to raise money for more cycle routes across the country — in Brecon at 9.30am to cycle to Merthyr Tydfil. By noon he had ridden about 12 miles. Suddenly, 400 yards from one of the many refreshment points along the route, he collapsed.

His wife, Linda, had been waiting for her husband at Cyfertha Castle in Merthyr Tydfil where a reception was due to be held for cyclists and officials. At news of her husband's collapse she, too, was taken to the hospital.

In a recent interview Mr Hamilton said that he would like an epitaph "that says *Cercidiphyllum japonica*, which is the name of the tree I want planted over me. It is a lovely honey colour and it will last about 60 years and then die, and that's all right."

Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcasting, said: "Geoff was a great friend to gardeners everywhere. He will be much missed by millions of BBC viewers with whom he shared his delight and knowledge of gardening. Our sympathies will be with his wife and family."

Alan Toogood, *The Times*'s horticulture correspondent, said: "He always liked to be known as a down-to-earth

practical gardener who was always willing to offer advice. He will be missed by millions. He has become a household name."

Rod Naktied, the head of television at BBC Pebble Mill, where *Gardeners' World* was made, added: "For many years Geoff Hamilton has been one of Britain's most popular and respected gardening broadcasters and journalists."

"He deserved to be, because he was not only immensely knowledgeable and utterly professional but he was also a pleasure to work with. We have lost a great friend and we shall miss him very much."

The cycle ride in which Mr Hamilton had agreed to take part began on July 22 and included more than 500 riders. It was organised by the civil engineering charity Sustrans to raise funds for more than 2,500 miles of cycle routes by the Millennium and a further 4,000 by the year 2005. The spokeswoman said Mr Hamilton was riding with representatives from the charity when he collapsed.

Mr Hamilton lived with second wife Lynda in a Victorian farmhouse in Barnsdale, Rutland, with 5½ acres of gardens, where the family also runs a garden centre and nursery. He had three sons by his first marriage.

He was born in Stepney, east London, but his family moved when he was two years old to the Lea Valley in Hertfordshire where he spent his childhood playing, and then working, in nurseries.

After leaving grammar school, and completing two years' National Service, he was trained at Writtle College of Agriculture in Essex. While he was working as a self-



Geoff Hamilton loved gardening from childhood, when he played in nurseries

employed nurseryman and landscape gardener, he met the Editor of *Gardeners' World* in 1970 when he was buying a plot of land.

The chance encounter led to a freelance contract to write a regular column for what was to become the top-selling weekly gardening magazine, and he subsequently became a full-time member of staff in 1975. In 1976, Mr Hamilton was appointed the Editor of *Practical Gardening*, the leading monthly magazine on

the subject. In 1979, he began presenting *Gardeners' World* from his garden in Barnsdale. Three years later, the programme moved to its present site a mile away.

At first the "garden" consisted of a small walled "creeper yard" containing pigs, and a grass paddock. There are now five acres under cultivation in the form of a series of small gardens, linked by grass paths and borders. The site was maintained by Mr Hamilton and a staff of three full-

time gardeners. As well as presenting *Gardeners' World*, he made several series, including the recent highly successful *Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens*.

Cycling was also one of his interests — "wherever possible, to avoid using a car, plus music and sport, but mostly gardening." He disliked politicians, frozen food and chemicals.

Away from his garden, he enjoyed singing with his local choral society.

American hackers run up £1m bill on Yard's phones

By STEWART TENDLER AND NICK NUTTALL

AMERICAN computer hackers who breached a special Southern Yard telephone system used to make £1 million of international calls, Embarrased, officials only noticed when the bills began to mount up and had to call in engineers to plug the loophole.

The Yard had to pay the bill and has now begun a civil action against a telephone contractor for alleged faults in the installation of the system. Fraud investigators from AT&T, which handles long distance calls in America, spent months trying to track down the hackers but eventually gave up.

The hackers made use of a telephone system known as Disa, Dial Inward System Access, also known as PBX call forwarding. It allows employees to make business calls from home by ringing a special exchange on their em-

ployer's main switchboard. They then dial a pass code and make the business call.

The call may be to anywhere in the world but appears as a local call on the home bill. The company, which may have a special discount arrangement, pays the remainder.

Hacking into such systems has become widespread. Experts say they are open to misuse because it is technically difficult to change the pass codes regularly. Police believe the Yard system was cracked by a hacker using a specially devised computer programme and a modem. The programme ran through a range of thousands of possible numbers and pass codes until the right ones connected. The numbers were then passed on through computer and Internet bulletin boards.

The Yard first spotted what was happening when a bill for a line on the internal exchange showed a dramatic increase. Officers from the computer crime unit at first suspected that the fraud was being run from inside. Once they began to check back through the calls, they realised they were at the mercy of hackers in America.

When the AT&T investigators began checking the numbers, they discovered the hackers had used many different public phones to call the Yard, so tracing them proved impossible.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jim Boocock, head of the Fraud Squad, said: "There was a problem which we discovered and we took immediate steps to end it." In a statement, the Yard said the telephone equipment was supplied by a reputable and well-known manufacturer and that civil proceedings had begun.

Police given body armour to defeat gun and knife attacks

By STEWART TENDLER

MADE-TO-MEASURE body armour will be offered today to all 28,000 officers in the Metropolitan Police.

Best police in some parts of Britain already wear body armour on duty but it is bulky and worn over their uniform. The new "Metvest" is made from plates of Kevlar and is designed to be worn under a shirt. It protects an officer's entire chest and back against ammunition, including the .357 round fired by a big Smith and Wesson revolver or a 9mm bullet from an automatic handgun. It will also protect against knife thrusts.

Yard scientists believe the armour will resist the firearms commonly used by criminals in Britain. They examined 3,000 different knives used in London during 18 months to make sure it could withstand stab attacks.

The armour has been tested by 440 officers at Tottenham and Walworth, two inner London stations, but so far no officer has put the Metvest to the test in a violent incident.

The Yard's armour will cost £300 a set and weigh four to eight kilos depending on the size of the officer. The cost is expected to run to £8 million and the first suits will be issued this autumn to male and female officers although further work on developing a

comfortable design for all female officers is to continue.

In the past five years seven officers have died on London's streets, including PC Philip Walters, who was shot last year in east London by Sergeant Derek Robertson, stabbed struggling with a robber in 1994, and PC Patrick Dunne, the beat officer shot investigating the murder of a drug dealer in 1993.

The armour is being launched as a questionnaire is sent out to officers across Britain on whether other parts of their equipment should be updated, including the traditional helmet. Twelve thousand officers will take part in the Police Federation survey.

Oasis of joy for the bank accounts of Loch Lomond

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE bank accounts of Loch Lomond were expected to be a little bonnier today as locals deposit their windfall caused by two sell-out, outdoor concerts which brought more than 80,000 Oasis fans to a tiny lochside town.

The two-day pop extravaganza had divided the people of sedate Balloch — population 5,000 — when it was first suggested in May, with some objecting that their community would not cope with such huge numbers. Yesterday there were few dissenting voices after many of the enterprising populace happily cashed in on the enormous influx of trade.

Farmers let their fields as car parks at £5 a time, and for camping at £10 a tent. Some locals even let space in their driveways. The mood was perhaps best summed up by a sign in the Balloch Hotel, which read: "If you're thirsty, there is more than one Oasis in Balloch". The hotel sold 7,200 bottles of lager and 1,260 gallons of beer in two days.

Corries, a normally sedate tea house and cafe, was transformed into a fast-food joint for the weekend, selling burgers and hot dogs. The owner, Margaret Mason, said: "Usually we do cream teas and a traditional Scottish menu, but we've adapted to demands."

The parish priest, Sean Fitzgerald, gave two extra masses for fans on Sunday, attracting around 50 young people each time. For his sermon he used



More than 80,000 fans packed into the concerts

the story of Christ feeding the five thousand. He said: "That's what Balloch has to do. We must welcome these people. Some older ladies are terrified, but they're doing their bit by helping to feed the St John Ambulance crews."

One resident, Stephen King, wearing his kilt and an Oasis T-shirt, set up a barbeque and beefburger stall on his front lawn on Balloch Road, staffed by his two young daughters. He reported a steady and very good-natured trade. "The fans' behaviour has been fantastic," he said. "Too many people were pessimistic about this, but I think it's great. The town has done really well. We

should be proud of ourselves". Robert Ritchie, 75, was not so impressed as he watched his home town sink beneath a high tide of litter and drunken bodies. But he admitted: "Everyone is making a bomb here if they can."

A huge operation involving police, emergency medical teams, security staff and cleaners, was put in place. The town's one public convenience was supplemented by rows of portable WCs. Workers picked up 140 tons of litter on the first day, when police reported only 20 arrests, for minor offences.

Review, page 15

Rivalry is just kin deep as racing Princess pips Duke

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

KEEN royal rivalry was evident at the Cowes Week yachting regatta yesterday as the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal competed in a gruelling four-hour race in the Solent.

In perfect sailing conditions, the Princess Royal, racing the 38ft *Arbitrator*, beat her father into fourth place by 45 seconds, crossing the finish line second in the 19-year-old race. Her husband, Captain Timothy Lawrence, joined her racing team.

One spectator reported that the Princess Royal spent much of the race with her legs dangling over the side of the

boat while her husband was hard at work. The two royal boats had been neck-and-neck for most of the 24-mile course before the *Arbitrator* edged ahead, shortly before the finish line.

The Duke congratulated his daughter after he stepped from his boat, *The Yeoman XXVIII*. The two last raced each other at Cowes seven years ago.

The royal party is staying aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* for the last time at Cowes.

The boat, a much-loved and familiar presence at the regatta for the past 42 years, makes its last journey from the resort on Wednesday

before it is decommissioned next year.

Earlier, the crew of *Britannia* was treated to a less salubrious scene as five models drew near the yacht in a speedboat and took their tops off to publicise a local calendar. The five women, all believed to be local, moored briefly before heading for the Royal Yacht Squadron, where the Duke of Edinburgh is Admiral, to repeat their performance. They motored away after stern words from officials. A spokesman for the club, which hosts its annual ball tonight, declined to comment.

Photograph, page 1

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Imperial barrier against Picts was a display of power but a military failure, writes Alan Hamilton

Impressing the barbarians along the wild frontier

HADRIAN'S WALL

FROM the car park at Steel Rigg in the high, empty wilderness of Northumberland, walk west for 15 minutes to the summit of Hadrian's Wall at 1,230ft. Now look east and follow the line of one of the Roman Empire's greatest constructions as it rollercoasts the crest of the Great Whin Sill for miles after uninhabited mile.

It took three legions 15 years and two million tonnes of stone and turf to build atop the steep-cliffed dolerite ridge that defines the waist of Britain from Tyne to Solway. But a troubling thought may occur to you as you marvel at the scale of its engineering: what on earth was it for?

To keep out troublesome Caledonian hooligans, of

upon Tyne to Carlisle, not far south of where the wall was built. Keeping the northern louts out must have been part of its function. But for such an expenditure of money and manpower in such remote and inhospitable terrain, that cannot be all.

The full story is a matter of conjecture. You would think that the imperial historians would have about such a tremendous feat of organisation and cleverness, but even Hadrian's biographer, Aelius Spartianus, gives it a mere two unhelpful lines: "He [Hadrian] set out for Britain, and there he corrected many abuses and was the first to construct a wall 80 miles in length which was to separate the barbarians from the Romans."

We must therefore make assumptions, and it is entirely reasonable to assume that Hadrian's Wall was, as much as anything else, a *Statement*. Hadrian ordered the mighty work during a visit to Britain in about AD 122. Unlike his expansionist predecessor Trajan, he was a sensitive soul, more in love with Greek culture and a young Greek boy than with the march of armies. In his view the empire was already large enough, and it was time for consolidation.

Commissioning the biggest wall in the empire was, in all probability, an act of self-aggrandisement, in the same way that Parisian arts centres, glass pyramids and other *grands travaux* are the attempts at immortality by modern French Presidents. If that was the case, it certainly worked.

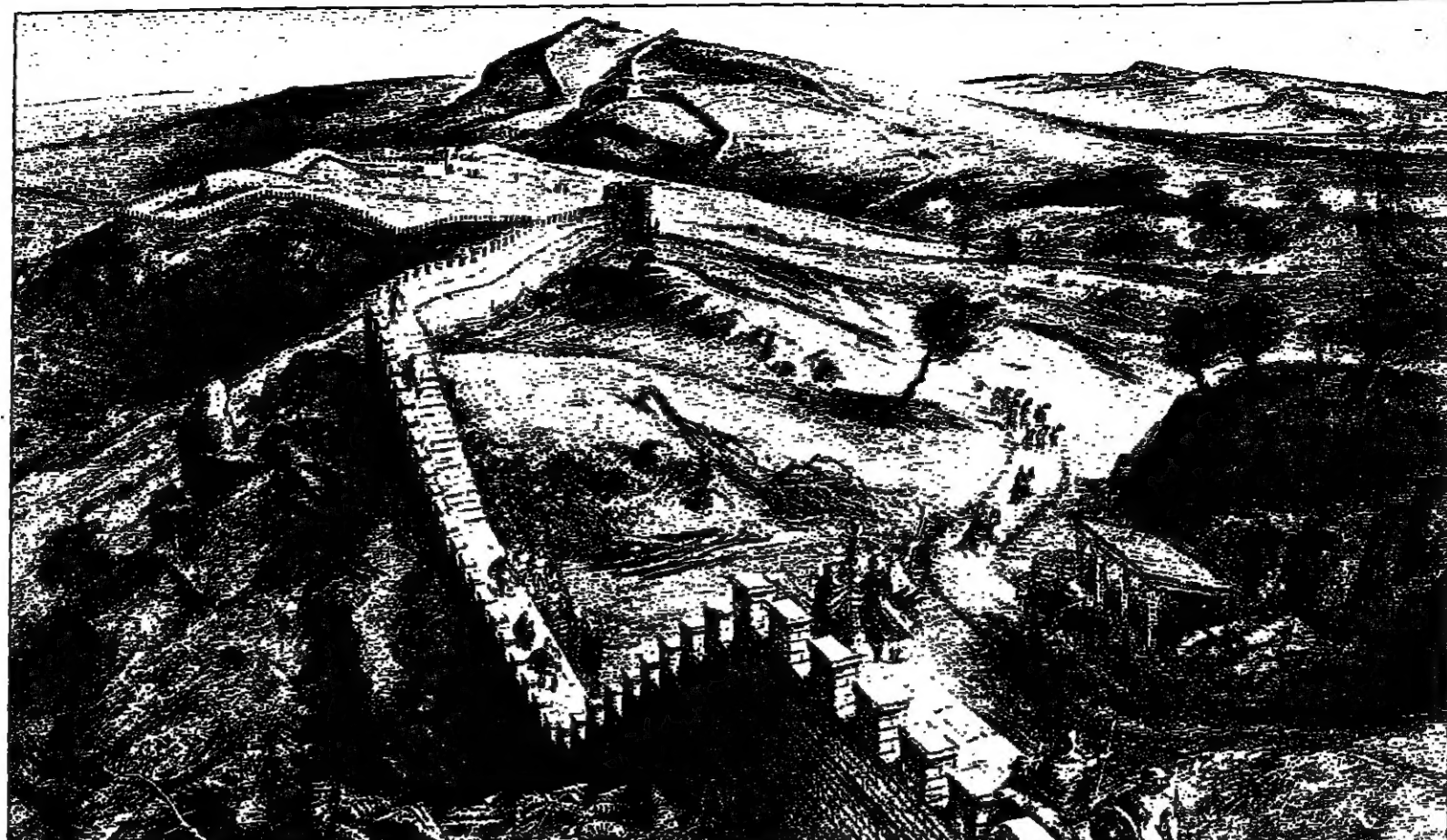
Would not a line of forts — the preferred method of policing the frontier elsewhere in the empire — have sufficed? Such a line did in fact already exist along the Stanegate, the Roman road from Newcastle

pointed white throughout its entire length, whitewashing being a perfectly valid means of preserving and enhancing the lime mortar that bound its stones. "Stretching as far as the eye can see in both directions, with milecastles at every mile, that is one big statement to the natives that they have been occupied."

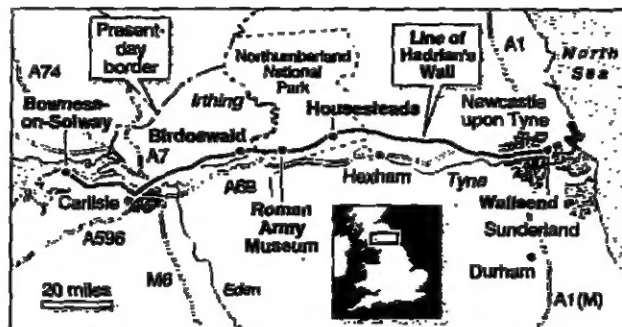
It was also a failure. Hadrian had been dead hardly a year and his wall barely finished when Rome took a strategic decision to move the frontier more than 75 miles to the north. A new barrier rose between the Forth and Clyde; Hadrian's Wall was evacuated of its garrison of 11,000 men and abandoned for 16 years.

For the remaining two centuries of Roman occupation, the wall was variously reoccupied, deserted, modified and rebuilt. Its last garrison appears to have abandoned it well before the last Roman legionary left Britain early in the fifth century.

The Romans built from the east, occasionally changing



Then and now: how the wall may have looked in Hadrian's day, above, and as it is now. It took 15 years to build but was soon abandoned



the design as they went west. At times the wall gets lower and thinner, perhaps because the Governor of Britain, on a tight schedule from his bosses, wanted it built faster. Some forts have three of their four exits on the north, suggesting a need for quick forays by the imperial army to bluff the Painted People. At an early stage of construction, the garrisons on the Stanegate were moved up to the wall, suggesting trouble from the natives.

But the wall itself is only the half of it. Running for much of its length on the northern side

is a defensive ditch: much more remarkable, on the southern side for almost its entire length is the *vallum*, a ditch originally 20ft wide and 10ft deep, with 20ft high mounds of earth on either side. Its construction must have been almost as big a project as the wall itself.

Historians conclude that the *vallum* was the Roman equivalent of barbed wire, defining the limit of the military zone which ran length of the wall, and designed to deter undesirable from the south from entering an army-controlled area where there would be mayhem to be wrought and bags of army kit to be stolen. As you cross the narrow of England, through the valleys of the rivers Tyne, Irthing and Eden, the *vallum* follows your route with almost as much prominence in places as the parallel masonry.

The wall was full of gates, to allow the passage of legitimate traders, sheep drovers, merchants, pimps, whores and other permissible barbarians. But the crossings of the *vallum* were far fewer, in bureaucratic terms, crossing the Berlin Wall was probably somewhat easier.

What the garrison made of its chilly and far-flung posting we can only guess, but the slender evidence suggests they were much like the muttering soldiery of any age or place.

Among the magnificent haul of personal letters recovered from the peat bog of Vindolanda in the 1970s is one probably to a private soldier, perhaps from his mother back in warmer lands: "I have sent you ... pairs of socks (*undonium*) from Sattus, two pairs of sandals (*soleorum duo*) and two sets of underparts (*subligationum duo*)."

It is the first recorded mention of underpants in Roman Britain, and gives the lie to the notion that the forces of occupation froze in nothing but their legionary miniskirts.

It is a misconception to imagine that the Roman wall was patrolled by Romans: there are probably more Italians living in Glasgow today than ever strode the northern frontier of the empire. Although built by the VI, VI and

XX legions, the wall was garrisoned by auxiliary cohorts recruited from all parts of the empire — Gaul, Spain, north Africa, and later on doubt from Britain itself.

Nothing better illustrates the cosmopolitan nature of the wall's garrison and surrounding civilian community than a tombstone now in Newcastle University's Museum of Antiquities. Barates, a Syrian merchant trading on the wall, married Regina, an early Essex girl from the Catuvellauni tribe of southeast Britain. Whether she was all XR3i white chariot and stiletto sandals, her fine memorial sadly does not record.

Tomorrow: St Albans, Exeter and Dorchester

How to see the best of the sites

WALKING the length of Hadrian's Wall at the steady marching pace of the XX Valeria Victrix legion would take 4½ days. Fully savouring the ruins and the magnificent wilderness takes the better part of a fortnight. Walkers should limit the contents of their packs to well below the 60-80lbs that a legionary carried on his back.

Most of the wall is walkable, and it is almost entirely within easy reach of public transport. The Newcastle-Carlisle railway is rarely more than a mile or two away, and half-and-half buses follow the wall in summer months connecting the stations of Carlisle, Haltwhistle and Hexham. All public transport inquiries: 01670-533128. The main sites of Chesters, Housesteads and Vindolanda are served by bus from Hexham BR station.

The best starting point is Newcastle, with a visit to the university's small Museum of Antiquities. (Queen Victoria Street, Newcastle; open Mon-Sat, 10-5, admission free). You can then take the train to Hexham, but the drive is better. Take the A69 Carlisle road as far as Heddou-on-the-Wall, and turn on to the B6318, built by General Wade on top of the wall itself. The northern ditch and southern vallum are splendidly visible at many points on the way to Chesters fort with its substantial remains of a bathhouse, complete with niches for the bathers' clothes. (Open daily in summer, 9.30-6, admission £2.50).

Continue along the same road, and stop briefly at the Temple to Mithras on the left-hand side. The Roman god's birthday was December 25, and some visitors still place flowers and candles in the ruin at Christmas.

Next comes the fort at Housesteads, the best-preserved in Britain, complete with a 16-seater latrine. (Fort open daily, 10-6, admission £2.50. National Trust members free). A walk on the wall in either direction gives an exhilarating demonstration of the wall's panoramic views to the north.

Well signposted off the B6318 nearby is Steel Rigg, one of the best vantage points on the entire stretch. Much of the wall you see here is a 19th-century renovation.

Near Housesteads are the forts of Corbridge with its well-preserved granary (open daily 10-6, admission £2.50) and Vindolanda, a privately owned site with modern reconstructions of what a fort and milecastle might have looked like. Original writings, one of the great finds of British archaeology, are now in the British Museum, but there are copies and explanatory material in the site's museum. (Open daily, 10-6.30, admission £3.50).

Keeping up appearances was time well spent for garrison town women

By Emma Wilkins

CHICHESTER

THE fastidious daily routine of Romano-British women is reflected in objects on display in the West Sussex garrison town of Chichester, which flourished as a trading post with the continental empire.

A full make-up kit at the museum includes *ligulae*, small metal spoons used for scooping up cosmetic powders that were then mixed on a palette. Eye-shadows were made from saffron plant extracts mixed with oil to give a muted, yellowish colour. Lead-based foundations and rosy cheeks completed the effect, topped off with an exotic headress held up by decorative bone or metal pins.

According to an account by Ovid, "hairs' blood" was smeared on the legs as an exfoliant; tweezers plucked out unwanted remains.

The tiny museum chronicles the history of the Romans. They arrived with the Kentish invasion force in AD43 and the town became a garrison for the Second Legion as it prepared to subdue unruly tribes to the west.

Military paraphernalia found in the town includes one of the few surviving examples of a gladius, a short stabbing sword, which is preserved in controlled temperature. Emasculators from the old cattle market are the only ones to be found in Britain.

"Chichester was not a ma-

jor town like St Albans or Colchester, but it was important strategically." Sue Fulwood, keeper of archaeology at the museum, said.

The army camped here while they made plans to subdue the South West and the Isle of Wight. The military occupation lasted about two years and the town grew up around the original camp.

"It was replanned in the second century on much the same lines as we see today, with four gates at each point of the compass." Chichester's walls were not built until the late 2nd or early 3rd century, supporting the theory that pirates began raiding around this time.

One of the main local industries was bone-working: hairpins, whistles, combs, dice and gaming counters have been uncovered. Trade in wool, wheat, barley, oats and rye — all local crops — was the mainstay of the port.

The Roman name for Chichester, Noviomagus (new market), has puzzled historians for decades. A new theory emerging from recent work at Fishbourne suggests that Chichester may have moved eastwards several miles around AD 70 before work on the palace began there.

One of the most significant finds in Chichester gives a rare clue to the identity of

Cogidubnus, who many believe was installed in Fishbourne palace as a client king by the Emperor Claudius, whose names he took as a sign of respect. An inscription on a marble plaque, discovered in 1723, reads: "To Neptune and Minerva, for the welfare of the Divine House by the authority of Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus, a great king in Britain, the guild of smiths and those therein gave this temple from their own resources. Jens, son of Pudentinus, presenting the site." The plaque can be seen on the outside of the Council House in North Street.

Chichester Museum is in Little London. Tel: 01243 784683. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5.30pm.



Roman women used a full make-up kit

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How to see the best of the sites

Olympic shame over Britain's medal tally

FROM JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA



BRITAIN ended the Olympics yesterday with their worst performance since the 1952 Games in Helsinki.

Not for 44 years has the British team failed to gain more than one gold medal and the Government is so concerned that it has asked the British Olympic Association (BOA) to have a special meeting with Iain Sproule, the Minister for Sport, to discuss the lack of success.

However, this will not take place until at least October because, first, the BOA must hold its debriefing sessions with the individual sports to analyse why so many competitors failed to match their best results in Atlanta.

While the French are reveling in having collected in Atlanta their highest number of gold medals (15) since 1900, when Paris staged the Games and only 26 countries participated, the British team will fly home today knowing sport in Britain must undergo a revolution in administration, funding and preparation.

If this does not happen, then there is the risk of even more dismal results in Sydney in four years' time.

The statistics from these Games are unpalatable. Britain totalled only 16 medals, far fewer than the BOA had expected.

Although just 13 were won

in 1976, at least there were three gold medals. In 1968, there were also 13 medals, but five of them were gold. This year the one title was won — by Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in the coxed pairs.

It has become more difficult to be successful at the Games over the years because the number of participating countries has increased. There were 197 countries taking part in Atlanta, 128 more than in 1952 when Britain collected 11 medals, including just one gold. However, even if many more of the smaller nations now participate, the number of Olympic events has also grown. In Helsinki there were 149; in Atlanta, 271.

Dick Palmer, the BOA secretary, says: "We have reached a watershed, a moment of truth. We cannot bluff it. We have to get our act together. We need more funding."

"I believe that in a country of 55 million, we should be producing more competitors and getting better results."

Kevin Hickey, the BOA technical director, said that in several British teams there was "a fairly obvious lack of preparation for the mental toughness required for the Olympics."

"We knew these would be a hard, grinding Games with a lot of US hype and a lot of pressure. It was emphasised at the training camps that teams had to be confident to the point of arrogance."

The Government will be told in other detailed inquiries on the Games that the Minister for Sport should take on executive powers and scrap the bureaucracies of the four national and United Kingdom sports councils. This direct responsibility by government for sport is what happens in France.

As Jean-Richard Germond, the director of elite preparation for the French Olympic Committee, says: "It is a system. The proof is that it works."

□ Johannesburg: News that

a black South African had won Olympic gold was loudly cheered back home where Josiah Thugwane, a coal miner, is assured of huge profits beyond his wildest dreams (Iain Gilmore writes).

Matthew Phiso, the African National Congress spokesman for Mpumalanga, Thugwane's home province, said the marathon runner would be treated to the "mother of all parties" when he returned to South Africa and be booked into a resort of his choice "for a well-deserved rest."

Hailing the "dedicated and able gladiator" and his "heartening victory", Mr Phiso added: "He did it for all of us as a country and we will always be proud of him and his achievements."

Thugwane was fortunate to be in Atlanta; he survived a car hijacking attempt in March. After a bullet grazed his chin, he jumped from the moving vehicle and badly injuring his back.

It was feared he would never run again but, with the help of his mining company, he recovered from his injuries to go on to win a place in the South African team and to collect a gold medal.

Leading article, Letters, page 17
Olympic reports, pages 21-25

Soviet echo as successor states rule awards table

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

WHILE Olympic competition may never be the same without the sight of the Communist red banner and the strains of the Soviet national anthem, the 15 nations of the former Soviet Union proved in Atlanta that they had not lost their sporting spirit or ability.

Cold War rivalry may be over, but the former Soviet states, competing for the first time as independent nations, can reflect with satisfaction that put together, their medals total would easily push America into second place in the table.

The result confounded critics, who predicted a sporting disaster after the collapse of the huge Soviet sporting apparatus which lavished funding on facilities and training for its athletes. Also, many predicted that the break-up of the Soviet national team would destroy team sports.

"At some level we miss the Soviet Union, because it gave us a greater pool of talent," said Aleksandr Davydov, the director of the Russian Basketball Federation. "But now we have young people who are finding different motivations to win."

While state sponsorship for sports on a Soviet scale may have dried up, the slack has in part been taken up by the private sector. Reebok, the sporting goods company, was the official sponsor of the Russian Olympic team and paid millions of dollars for everything from equipment to uniforms.

Similarly in Ukraine, when the country's Olympic team set off for Atlanta, the big outdoor concert event to see off the athletes in Kiev was hosted by Coca-Cola.

Aside from sporting giants like Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia, smaller states in the former Soviet Union proved in Atlanta that, in spite of economic hardships and in some cases crippling ethnic wars, sport is still taken very seriously.

Armenia certainly rose to the occasion in Atlanta when it clinched a gold and silver medal. In neighbouring Georgia, residents of the capital, Tbilisi, were reportedly glued to their televisions to watch their athletes return home with two bronze medals.

Kirghizia, the remote Central Asia republic which failed to make it onto the medal table, nevertheless demonstrated that it took the competition seriously when it offered its athletes £12,000 for a gold, £10,000 for a silver and £6,000 for

When population is the factor, the Atlanta Games medal table looks very different. Places are worked out by awarding four points for a gold medal, three for silver and two for bronze, and then dividing the resulting points by population.

Country	Pop. in millions	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1 (25) New Zealand	3.5	2	2	2	20
2 (38) Jamaica	2.5	3	2	2	20
3 (9) Cuba	11.9	7	7	7	21
4 (7) Australia	18.2	9	9	9	27
5 (13) Hungary	10.9	6	6	6	18
6 (10) Yugoslavia	6.2	4	4	4	12
7 (10) South Korea	4.3	3	3	3	9
8 (10) Sweden	8.5	3	3	3	9
9 (10) Slovenia	2.1	2	2	2	6
10 (10) Czech Rep.	10.3	3	3	3	9
11 (10) Slovakia	5.4	2	2	2	6
12 (10) Lithuania	3.3	2	2	2	6
13 (10) Latvia	2.6	2	2	2	6
14 (10) Estonia	1.1	1	1	1	3
15 (10) Ukraine	51.5	1	1	1	3
16 (10) Belarus	10.3	1	1	1	3
17 (10) Kazakhstan	15.2	1	1	1	3
18 (10) Kyrgyzstan	4.5	1	1	1	3
19 (10) Uzbekistan	18.2	1	1	1	3
20 (10) Georgia	4.5	1	1	1	3
21 (10) Azerbaijan	6.5	1	1	1	3
22 (10) Armenia	3.7	1	1	1	3
23 (10) Russia	147.8	1	1	1	3
24 (10) Kyrgyzstan	4.5	1	1	1	3
25 (10) Kazakhstan	15.2	1	1	1	3

full independence, some predict that by the next Olympics there may be even more nations represented from what was the Soviet Union.

Raimkul Malakhbekov, a boxing medalist in the Russian team, insisted on fighting all his bouts in a uniform embossed with the name Kalmykia, an autonomous republic inside the Russian Federation.

Even Chechnya, Russia's breakaway republic, had its athletes represented in Atlanta. Luchman and Elmad Zhabrailov, two brothers who are both wrestlers, refused to compete on behalf of Russia and instead they represented Moldavia and Kazakhstan.

Many of the countrymen hope that by the Sydney Olympiad in 2000 Chechen athletes will be competing for the first time under their own national flag.

□ Drug protest: Russia complained that the International Olympic Committee had not told it that bromantan, a secret Soviet-era drug, was now banned. But the committee said it did not have to, once experts had established that the substance was a stimulant. An official said he believed Moscow had been using the drug for more than a decade. (Reuters)

MEDAL HAUL

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russia	26	20	14	60
Ukraine	7	2	11	20
Belorussia	1	6	8	15
Kazakhstan	2	3	4	9
Armenia	1	1	0	2
Uzbekistan	0	1	1	2
Georgia	0	0	2	2
Azerbaijan	0	1	0	1
Lithuania	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Total 113				

Tongan punches his way into record books

New York: To the bafflement of many Americans, cries of "Tonga! Tonga!" rang around the boxing hall in Atlanta last night as Paes Wolfgang went for gold in the super heavyweight division (Quentin Letts writes). In the process, he has become the first subject of the Pacific kingdom to win a medal at the Games.

In his homeland, on the other side of the international dateline, Tongans closely followed the bout on radio as many do not own a television.

Wolfgang's sovereign, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, was hoping to be among the spectators in Atlanta to watch the final against Vladimir Klichko of Ukraine.

Wolfgang's presence in the final was as truly Olympian as a moment as these Games offered. It was certainly more romantic than that of the

strutting, overpaid US basketball team which, arguably, should not have been embraced by the Olympic family.

Wolfgang was not expected to progress to the finals, and he provided one of the few upsets of the Olympiad when he beat Cuba's Alexis Rubalcaba in the quarter-final. In the semi-final on Saturday, he beat Nigeria's Duncan Dabwari in the final seconds, throwing a lucky punch that landed and took him past his rival on points.

In the Atlanta boxing arena, American fans, whose own fighters have had little luck in Atlanta, adopted the plucky Pacific islander. The fighter invoked the words of his forefathers who said before they went to war against Samoa. "Mounga kihi lotu," he growled. "The mountain is in our hearts."

Officials replace the gold Ali threw in river

By QUENTIN LETTS

FORMER Olympic heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was given a gold medal at the Atlanta Games on Saturday to make up for the one he threw away in protest at racism in the 1960s.

Ali, suffering from Parkinson's disease, was presented with the replacement medal at half-time in the basketball finals. A large crowd rose to its feet when Ali accepted the medal from Juan Antonio Samaranch and rewarded the president of the International Olympic Committee with a kiss. Ali also lifted the medal to his lips.

In his heyday Ali, formerly known as Cassius Clay, was blessed with a reprieve second in its speed and sting only to his jabbing punches and "butterfly" steps. These days he moves slowly and is incapable of proper conversation, but on receiving the new gold medal he responded with a slow, broad smile.

Many spectators at Atlanta's Georgia Dome wept after he was driven into the arena on a gold-coloured golf cart and then shuffled awkwardly to the middle of the floor. "Ali! Ali!" chanted the crowd.

The onetime "Louisville Lip", who turned professional after his victory as an 18-year-old over Poland's Zbigniew Pietrzykowski at the 1960 Olympics, buried his original gold medal in disgust into the Ohio River after he was refused entry to a white-run restaurant in Kentucky and was confronted by a white motorbike gang. He later wrote that he felt "great strength" as he watched the medal sink in the river.

Saturday's ceremony was his second appearance at the Atlanta Games, which have tried to depict themselves as a racially healing event. He was the surprise guest at the opening ceremony two weeks ago when he lit a mechanised torch that ignited the Olympic torch.

His presence did not please everyone. His "old opponent" "Smokin' Joe" Frazier said: "I think it was a big slap in the face for boxing. There are men who have done more for America and more for boxing — he was a draft dodger. If they had asked me, hell, I'd have run all the way up there and lit the flame. He's a lot of noise, a lot of mouth."

In a reminder of the security concerns that have dogged this Olympics, two members of the National Guard were attacked by a gunman in a suburb of the city early yesterday. One



Muhammad Ali kisses the replacement gold medal awarded to him at the weekend

died, the other was wounded in the 3.30am incident as they were leaving a restaurant. The shots were fired from a passing car and the killing raised fresh doubts about Atlanta's ill-advised boasts to be the "safest place on Earth" during the Olympics.

The motive for the attack was not known. The men were in plain clothes and were not on duty; there was no attempt to rob them. At any other time, a "drive-by" killing in the Atlanta suburb of Doraville would

excite little attention, for the city has a lamentable crime record.

However, the guardsmen were part of the 30,000-strong security force which was moved to Atlanta for the past two weeks to guard the city against attack. The number of troops was increased after the bombing of Centennial Park nine days ago.

The often-troubled Games were concluding late last night with a closing ceremony whose details were being kept a secret.

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Croats hint at deal as EU plans Mostar exit

BY STACY SULLIVAN IN MOSTAR AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BOSNIAN CROATS in Mostar issued an unspecified proposal last night aimed at ending their boycott of the newly elected city council, which has threatened to undermine the elections to be held throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina in six weeks' time.

"We have received a new proposal from the Croat side ... and we are trying to get in touch with the Bosnian (Muslim) side to talk to them," Dragan Gasic, a European Union spokesman, said. The offer concerned a key stumbling block, but it was too early to say whether the move could rescue the EU's two-year mission to unify the city.

The EU mission there was pronounced all but dead earlier yesterday after separatist Bosnian Croats failed to meet a midnight deadline to recognise the city's recent election results and end the boycott.

An EU decision to pull out of Mostar, which may still be announced today at EU headquarters in Brussels, would set a dangerous precedent for next month's elections by

showing that any group dissatisfied with results can render them invalid.

The Nato-led Implementation Force, Ifor, has increased the number of patrols in the Mostar region, according to Major Brett Boudreau, a Nato spokesman in Sarajevo. Major Boudreau said the Croats' boycott was disappointing, but added that the peace force would wait for official word from the EU before making any major moves.

Before last night's proposal from the Croats, Sir Martin Garrod, the British EU administrator of Mostar, said: "I am very disappointed, deeply disappointed. This is a sad day for Mostar. The only people who are going to be drinking champagne in Mostar now are the [Croat] thugs, gangs and criminals ... We will leave behind a rear party to complete the tasks currently under way, pay the bills and switch off the lights."

He added, however, that if the Croats were to come forward with a compromise before the EU gave its final

decision today, an agreement allowing the EU to stay could still be reached.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, urged the Mostar Croats to stop hindering the power-sharing agreement with the Muslims, saying it would be disastrous if the deadlock led to the departure of EU representatives.

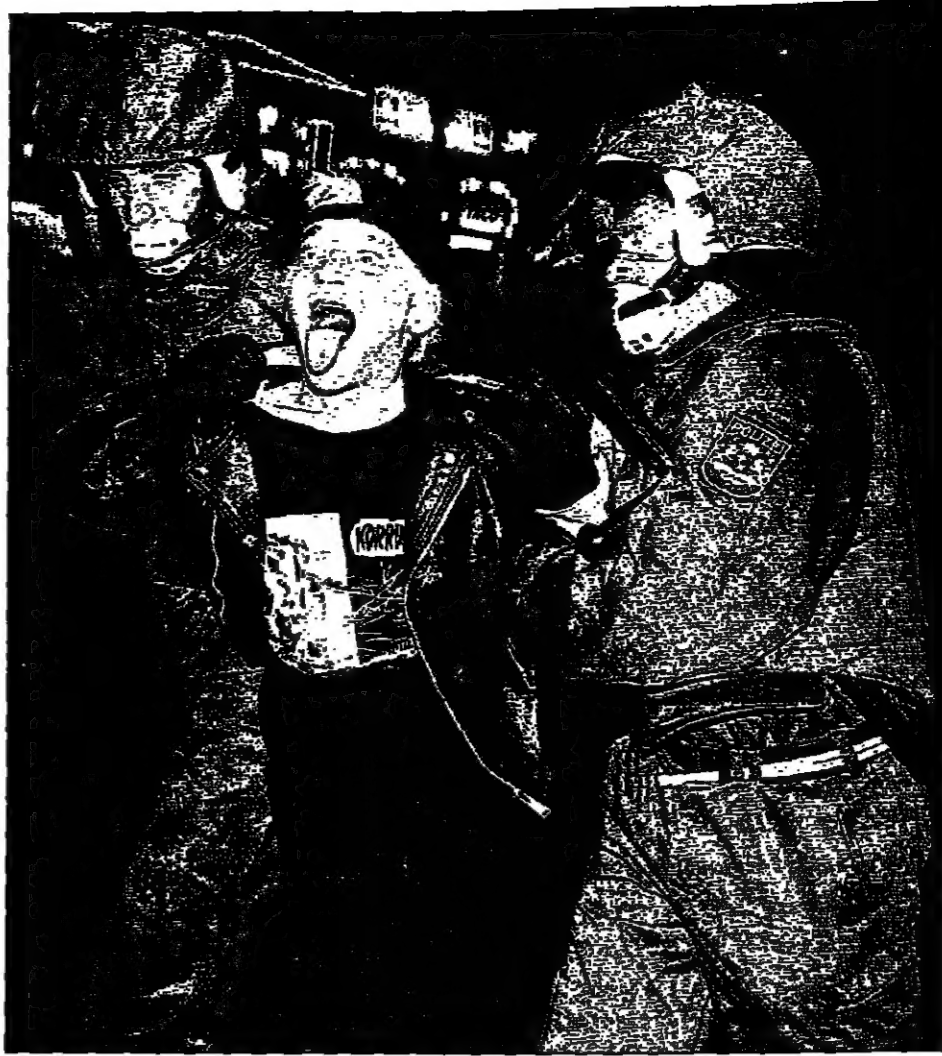
President Clinton met President Tudjman of Croatia in Washington on Friday to urge him to bring his Bosnian Croat protégés into line.

The prospects for long-term peace in Bosnia are also being jeopardised by an apparent inability of the United States and Europe to harmonise their approach to the Balkans. America has reportedly drawn up plans for a commando raid to seize Radovan Karadzic, the former president of the self-styled Republika Srpska, who is accused of war crimes. The scheme brought a swift retort yesterday from Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary. He said it would endanger the lives of British

and other Ifor troops. The British Government, meanwhile, rebuked Mostar's Croats. A Whitehall statement said the boycott had "worrying implications for the establishment of a fully functioning [Muslim-Croat] Federation, which is a key pillar on which the Dayton agreement is based."

The impasse between the Bosnian Croats and EU came after Mostar's city elections on June 30. Residents voted to elect a single council to unify the city, which is divided between Croats, who would like to keep the city divided, and Muslims, who have been aiming for reunification. The Muslims won a 21-16 majority, but the Croats declared the elections fraudulent.

Croatia faced condemnation on another front yesterday, when the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights said that more than 115 Croatian Serbs had been "arbitrarily executed" and 110 others had "disappeared" when Croatian forces recaptured Krajina a year ago yesterday.



Police arrest a punk in central Bremen yesterday after a "chaos day" was banned

German police clash with punks

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BREMEN

POLICE in Bremen arrested 70 punks early yesterday after about 250, observing an annual celebration of anarchy, threw beer bottles at officers. No one was injured and the group was released later.

"Chaos days" have been held annually in Hanover since the early 1980s, but officials in the north German city banned it this year after two consecutive years of looting and vandalism. Six thousand officers blocked Hanover's centre throughout the weekend to enforce the ban and the loosely organised event moved to nearby Bremen. Police there turned back hundreds of youths arriving at the railway station early on Saturday.

The punks expressed anger that they were not allowed to gather peacefully in the city, and hundreds fought police officers with stones, bottles and petrol bombs. Six officers were injured and a police vehicle was set on fire and destroyed.

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THE TIMES

Britain haunted by 1950s errors as euro beckons

During the months to come, one argument will reverberate through the debate about Europe. If we stay out of the single currency, grave voices will warn, we will repeat the mistake of the 1950s when we disdainfully refused to join the original Common Market.

"Waiting longer will not help us make up our minds," the economist Christopher Johnson says at the end of his philippic, *In With the Euro, Out With the Pound*. "The single currency countries ... will move ahead and write their own rules ... It will be like Britain's refusal to sign the Treaty of Rome in 1957." Sir Roy Denman, a retired British Eurocrat, called his dyspeptic and witty critique of Britain's zigzags in Europe, *Missed Chances*.

You can argue about whether or not Britain would be right or wrong to pass up the single currency. But let's stop misusing history. The argument about the 1950s has more to do with exploiting guilt and fear than about analysing what went wrong. Forty years on, Europe and the world are different places. A decade after the war, tariff walls were still high, the Asian tiger economies had hardly been born, Soviet Russia was a superpower, and the Commonwealth a real institution.

That British ministers and officials of the time committed grotesque errors of judgment is beyond dispute. Many British officials dealing with the European Union now are haunted by the same sins. "No very spectacular developments are to be expected as a result of the Messina conference," advised the British Ambassador in Paris in 1956. After the European Economic Community took shape, the late Rab Butler confessed to having been "bored" by the spectacle of continental technocrats sitting down to discuss customs barriers.

The people fearful that Britain will lose influence by excluding itself now from a hard-currency zone conclude that the failure then was a lack of nerve and of leadership. All the chances, from the refusal to join discussions on the



Schumann plan in 1950 to the signing of the treaty in 1957, were missed because ministers should have taken the plunge and did not.

But the real mistake was a myopic failure to foresee that the EEC's architects would succeed in setting up workable institutions. Getting the prediction wrong was not the same as getting the policy wrong.

In a clear and unsentimental analysis of this period, Professor John Young, of Leicester University, argues that the important difference was between the policy of 1950-55, which tried to link Britain as closely as possible with arrangements whose ultimate federalist aim we did not share, and a different tack taken in 1956-57, which rejected the whole business. The first approach was not necessarily wrong; the second plainly was.

Britain's problems with the EU reflect, at the deepest level, disagreement about the distribution of political and economic power. In a pamphlet published today, the Tory MEP Graham Mather says that Britain must recognise "that our relationship with the European Union is misfiring because of divergent objectives".

In only one respect, the 1950s mirror the 1990s: our dilemma then and now was and is to find the best accommodation between engagement and not being locked into a political union. This reflects history, culture and economics before it has anything to do with failure of nerve.

* *Europe: UK in a Minority of One*, European Policy Forum, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA.

William Rees-Mogg, 16
GEORGE BROCK

Chirac gets a taste for government reshuffle

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC has launched an intensive lunching programme in recent days, winning and dining allies and opponents alike and fueling speculation that the French leader is cooking up a substantial government reshuffle for the autumn.

Last week M. Chirac broke bread with three political heavyweights: Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister who was his unsuccessful rival for the presidency, Philippe Séguin, the parliamentary Speaker, and Alain Madelin, the Thatcherite former Finance Minister.

On Saturday he dined with Michel Rocard, the former Socialist Prime Minister, and before leaving for his summer holiday M. Chirac will host private lunches with Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist former Interior Minister, and François Léotard, head of the UDF, the junior partner in the ruling coalition.

The most notable absentee from the guest list has been Alain Juppé. If there is more serious industrial unrest next month, then the enduringly unpopular Prime Minister is likely to find himself the prime candidate for public sacrifice.

Israel on alert as Hamas calls for anti-Arafat rising

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI military commanders placed security forces on alert yesterday after violence broke out between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and threatened to spill over into Israel.

The threats against both Israel and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority chairman, were issued by Hamas, the militant Islamic group responsible for a series of suicide bombings inside Israel earlier this year. In a statement, Hamas called on members of its underground armed wing to "strike Zionist targets in response to the crimes of Arafat's regime and its oppressive militias", and for the people to launch an intifada against the authority.

Hamas branded Mr Arafat a "collaborator" and blamed the Palestinian police for shooting dead one of its supporters. The killing came after the death of a Palestinian activist who was tortured in prison by Palestinian police in Nabulus. Although the police officers responsible were jailed, the action failed to prevent riots in the city on Thursday. The next day police opened fire on demonstrators in the city of Tulikarm, killing the Hamas supporter and

wounding about 15 others. The crowd had stormed a Tulikarm jail to protest at the detention of inmates without charges. As rioting ensued, Israeli military commanders on the West Bank were ordered to strengthen their numbers and to help Palestinian police to treat the wounded, but not to interfere in the fighting.

6 Jewish settlement activity is an effective cancellation of peace?

Yesterday Mr Arafat ordered the release of 20 Hamas prisoners in an attempt to end Hamas's uprising threat. "The release was carried out for the public good," Amin Hindi, chief of Palestinian intelligence, said. In the wake of the suicide bombings in Israel in February and March, Palestinian police arrested nearly 900 Islamic militants. The bomb-

ings were claimed by Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group. Hamas sources say about 300 militants remain in Palestinian detention.

Friday's shooting incident, Hamas noted, came on the same day the Israeli Cabinet gave the go-ahead for an expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to more than two million Palestinians.

The decision led to an outcry from the Palestinian Authority and Arab leaders. Amar Moussa, Egypt's Foreign Minister, said the Arab world had been taken by surprise and warned Israel against expansions of Jewish settlements. "The peace process could be in danger if the settlement process is mobilised to the extent we have heard," he said.

Saeed Erekat, a leading Palestinian Authority member, said: "The Israeli Government's resolution is a serious setback to the peace process. I think settlement activity... building settlements, expanding settlements is an effective cancellation of peace."

Although the Palestinian Authority rejects Hamas's charges that it is collaborating with Israel, there are signs that they are working closely on security issues. One example of this effort was a meeting scheduled in the Palestinian city of Ramallah of heads of the joint Israeli-Palestinian security committee to discuss rising crime in the West Bank after news that Israeli and Arab criminals were co-operating in drug dealing, car theft, forgery and counterfeiting.

□ Jail escape: Two members of Islamic Jihad serving long sentences in an Israeli jail escaped yesterday, an Israeli police spokesman said. The two had apparently tunneled their way out of a prison near Tel Aviv. (Reuters)



The largest piece of fuselage from TWA Flight 800 to be recovered so far, a 40ft by 60ft piece of the forward section roof, is lifted to shore from a Navy barge at Shinnecock Coast Guard station (Quentin Letts writes).

Yesterday, scientists started to inspect the three-quarters-of-an-inch thick "skin" of the roof of the Boeing 747, which crashed last month killing 230 people. The experts want to see if it had been scorched and marked by any residue of explosives.

On Saturday night, the bodies of a

Scientists study roof of TWA jet for evidence of explosives

pilot and a flight engineer were recovered. Captain Ralph G. Kevorkian, 58, of Garden Grove, California, and Richard G. Campbell, 63, a flight engineer from Ridgefield, Connecticut, were identified by medical examiners. Speaking about the piece of roof,

Robert Francis, the vice-chairman of the US National Transportation Safety Board, said: "It is a pretty graphic piece of evidence as to what happens to an aircraft when it crashes like this, wires dangling off, seats attached, pieces of galley, a coffee pot."

He emphasised the importance to

crash investigators of the discovery of the cockpit, which appears to have been blown away from the rest of the aircraft. The gauges and switches may indicate what the pilots were doing at the time. Investigators are trying to get wreckage to shore as quickly as possible before evidence is corroded. The Navy's most senior diver inspected the cockpit at the weekend to see how it could best be raised.

Letters, page 17

Iran defies US sanctions over Saudi bomb

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAN dismissed as another propaganda play the latest "monotonous" American accusation that Tehran supports terrorism, and said it was confident of surviving punitive sanctions legislation due to be signed today by President Clinton.

The war of words erupted after William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, said Iran was a prime suspect in the lorry bombing in June that

killed 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia, where British, American and French troops were yesterday on alert for an imminent terror attack.

At the weekend Iranian leaders denounced Mr Perry's remarks as "irresponsible" and the English-language *Iran News*, a paper close to the Foreign Ministry, said yesterday: "If the US can present documentation in support of

its accusations, it should do so or shut up."

Washington has vowed to take action against any country proved to have been involved in the attack. Mr Perry, under pressure from the White House, later backtracked, insisting that his comments did not mean imminent action against Iran.

His clarification did little to allay Tehran fears of a military strike. Iranian offici-

als and businessmen speculated that targets could include Iran's unfinished nuclear reactor at Bushehr, oil facilities or a network of camps that Washington alleges are used to train foreign terrorists.

"I'm rethinking my plans to go to Tehran at the end of the month," said a prominent expatriate Iranian businessman who did not want to be named. Of less concern, he said, was the new sanctions

Bill that penalises non-American firms investing \$40 million (\$26 million) or more a year in oil and gas projects in Iran and Libya — states that Washington accuses of sponsoring terrorism.

Tehran, encouraged by strident European and Russian opposition, said American sanctions had so far succeeded only in hurting US companies that have lost business to European competitors.

Test ban wins backing

Jerusalem: Israel, which some observers believe has secretly conducted two nuclear tests in the past, has agreed in principle not to block the proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (Ross Dunn writes).

The decision indicates that Israel would sign the treaty if differences which have prevented India and Pakistan giving their consent to it can be resolved.

According to some reports, Israel conducted one underground nuclear test in the Negev desert in 1966. It is also

believed to have tested a tactical nuclear warhead in the Indian Ocean in 1979, possibly with South Africa.

Officially the Israeli Government denies having conducted such tests and insists it will not be the first country to "introduce nuclear weapons" into the Middle East.

John Hollum, America's director of arms control, who visited here last week, said Israel's support could be the key to securing the agreement of other countries in the region, including Egypt.

Britons complete record charity flight in Africa

FROM MARK HUBAND IN TANGIER

THREE young Britons flew out of Africa, bronzed, smiling and a little thinner yesterday after a record-breaking 18,000-mile flight around every corner of the continent's coastline to raise money for wildlife.

Piloting their own Cessna U206A, Lord Edward Manners, Johnny Beveridge and Dan Stephens completed what they believe was the first circumnavigation of the continent's coastline in a single-engine aircraft. They touched down in the north Moroccan port city of Tangier three months after leaving it behind at the start of their journey.

Lord Edward, 30, the son of the Duke of Rutland and a marketing consultant with British Airways, emerged beaming at Tangier airport despite still recovering from malaria.

The cabin of the three men's modified Cessna was packed with communications equipment for the trip to relay up-to-date accounts of their three-month journey, and an additional fuel tank so they could fly non-stop for up to 14 hours.

In Ghana the team visited the first of five wildlife conservation projects, a zoo in Accra, recommended by the London Zoological Society as a potential recipient of some of the £130,000 they hope to raise for their Pan-African Conservation Trust (Pact).

By publicising the journey and the projects they visited, the three hope to raise money from individual and corporate sponsors, channelling donations over five years to conservationists whose strategy is to harmonise the needs of local

populations with those of the species in need of protection.

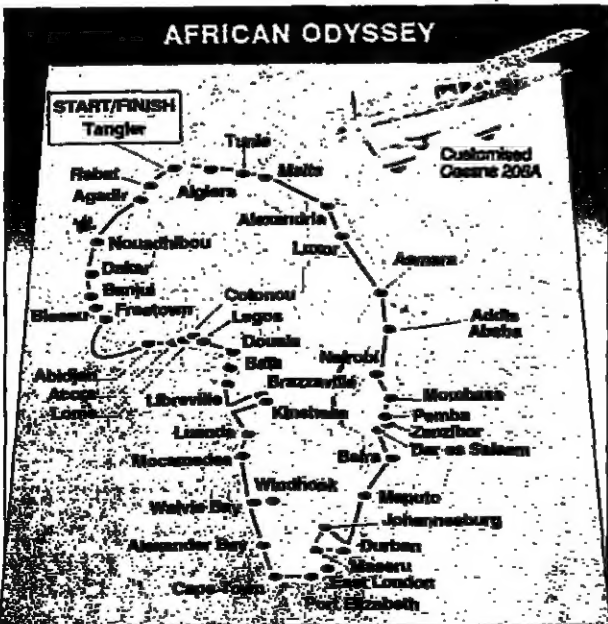
Avoiding the war zones, the three men's self-financed £25,000 trip gave them a glimpse of parts of the continent only accessible by aircraft.

"I was surprised by the happiness that I saw," said Dan Stephens, a photographer and first-time visitor to Africa, who had spent the past few years working for *Tatler*. "I was sort of expecting everybody to be hungry and ill. But I was cheered by what I saw. I don't think I ever saw a child crying, not in the way you see them crying in England."

"We found the real joy was going to villages," said Johnny Beveridge, a 31-year-old New York-based banker who is vice-president of Salomon Brothers. "I'll never forget Arba Murch in Ethiopia, a tiny place we had to land in because of bad weather. Everybody we met in that village couldn't have been more welcoming."

Mr Beveridge said that one stop in the heart of the Namibian bush was "magical, even after being chased by a rhino", as he described the efforts at saving rhinos made by the conservationist Garth Owen Smith at the Weldest project. "The aim really is to educate the local communities, and teach them that they have a role to play and should view wildlife as an asset."

The Rio Earth Summit addressed this issue in 1992, and the Pact initiative reflects growing awareness of the complications involved in ensuring humans are not ignored when the needs of rare and wild animals are debated. Increasingly, people in Africa have criticised conservationists for ignoring their needs.



Sri Lanka refugees flee army onslaught

FROM REUTERS IN COLOMBO

SRI LANKAN authorities in the frontline town of Vavuniya are preparing for an influx of refugees fleeing an army offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels, military and aid officials said yesterday.

"We estimate almost 200,000 people have been displaced by the latest fighting," an aid official said. "We expect some of them to come to army-held areas and we are planning to send food to the others [in rebel-held areas] today."

Schools in and around Vavuniya, 138 miles north of Colombo, the capital, were being prepared to accommodate the refugees. Most were hiding in the jungle to avoid troops advancing from the northern Jaffna peninsula towards rebel-held Kilinochchi, 44 miles north of Vavuniya.

Civilians and aid workers have reported heavy shelling by the Army, whose advance has been stalled for the past week just outside Kilinochchi. Most of the town's 150,000 people have fled. At least 11 soldiers and 60 Tamil Tigers were killed in yesterday's fighting.

Air crash kills Danish admiral

Copenhagen: Admiral Hans Jorgen Garde, Denmark's chief of defence, and eight other people were killed when a Royal Danish Air Force plane crashed into a cliff as it tried to land in poor visibility in the Faroe Islands (Christopher Follett writes).

A witness said that the twin-engine Gulfstream III began to shudder as it approached an airstrip on the western tip of the islands, then turned upside down before hitting the cliffs. There were no survivors among a military delegation who were returning from Greenland and Iceland.

Blackout costs Malaysia dear

Kuala Lumpur: A 15-hour blackout across peninsular Malaysia at the weekend was a huge embarrassment and must not be allowed to recur, Anwar Ibrahim, the Deputy Prime Minister, said. A power failure at the Paka plant in Terengganu state triggered the blackout of many other plants. Asked about financial losses caused by the failure, Mr Anwar said: "They are certainly huge. It is very unfortunate." (Reuters)

New Zealand to shoot wild horses

Wellington: New Zealand's Conservation Department is expected to start shooting the first of up to 1,000 Kaikoura wild horses today or tomorrow, despite widespread protests (Jo Andrews writes). The Government says that the horses, partly descended from Exmoor and Welsh mountain ponies released last century, are an introduced species and are destroying native plants.

Real-life 'Kojak' dies at 82

New York: The policeman whose genial manner, use of common courtesies and keen sense of justice inspired the television cop *Kojak* — played on screen by Telly Savalas — has died, aged 82 (Quentin Letts writes). Thomas Cavanagh was a mainstay of Manhattan's 23rd precinct during the 1960s and 1970s.

Indonesia's democracy leader faces political duel with police

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S pro-democracy leader is expected to defy a police summons today to explain in person why she organised public meetings criticising high-level corruption and nepotism.

This would further antagonise the military-dominated Government, which is determined to crush the first serious challenge in 30 years to President Suharto's virtual one-man rule.

Megawati Sukarnoputri, 49, spent the weekend at home in the southern Jakarta suburbs with her lawyers, preparing answers to a battery of anticipated questions and planning her legal strategy. The summons requires her to attend police headquarters at 10am today. Her lawyers insisted last night that legal aspects of the document must be clarified first. "She will not appear," a family member

said. This amounts to a play designed to defy the Government without openly confronting it. Miss Megawati has decided against a high-profile pro-democracy campaign, which could justify even more aggressive measures against her movement.

She intends to submit herself to early police questioning, perhaps this week, but not without being seen to be difficult about it. She will tell her interrogators that her objective is not to overthrow the Government, but to make it more accountable and less corrupt.

The police summons had to be authorised by President Suharto, because Miss Megawati is a member of parliament. She believes her subtle approach will be more difficult for the Government to counter than a confrontational "people power" movement of

the kind launched by Corazon Aquino in the Philippines.

Miss Megawati's lawyers said the summons declared that she was being called as a witness to allegations of slander made against President Suharto at her "democracy forum," as six weeks of daily public protest meetings outside her headquarters were known. Police also plan to ask what role she played in the Jakarta riots nine days ago.

The Government's heavy-handed response to her low-key challenge has been a gift. Barely two months after making its first appearance, the campaign is firmly established in Jakarta and some other urban centres. The countryside, where political activity is banned on the grounds that the rural masses should not be politicised, remains largely unaware of the emergent urban turmoil.

China 'persecuting people for religion'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

AMNESTY International claimed yesterday that religious groups in China were being restricted again and individuals persecuted. Strict official rules on religion had led to arbitrary detention of believers peacefully exercising their rights to worship, the human rights organisation said, urging Chinese authorities to ease persecution.

"The implementation of national and local regulations on religious activities in China results in some areas in severe restrictions on peaceful religious activities

and in the persecution of members of religious groups," Amnesty noted.

Analysts said that one of the more significant side-effects of reform since early 1979 has been a revival of religious practice of Buddhist and Taoist beliefs, which are again being expressed publicly. Islam and Christianity were also flourishing, with Protestant evangelism being carried on with particular fervour in some areas.

China formally recognises five religious groups — Buddhism, Taoism (an old indigenous philosophy faith), Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism. However, many believers belong to

groups not recognised. Diplomats note that all religious groups must still register with the Government and that the security authorities regularly carry out surveillance of religious activities.

The Amnesty report, released yesterday, said members of unregistered groups were harassed and detained, and their leaders sometimes jailed.

This year there have been numerous announcements of moves against "religious extremism" in the mainly Muslim Xinjiang province and in Tibet, where a campaign against support for the exiled Dalai Lama has been pursued strenuously.

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Day one of a new series which examines the mysterious world of consciousness — and

What gives us our sense of self?

THINKING is a kind of miracle, but being aware that we are thinking is even more miraculous, and remains the central mystery of human existence. Philosophers have argued for thousands of years about the nature of consciousness, its location and its mode of action, but in the past two decades scientists have also waded in, with stimulating consequences.

Even defining what we mean by consciousness is not very easy. At one level, it simply means being awake, rather than asleep, or drugged. But the more profound meaning is that of self-awareness — "the perception of what passes in a man's own mind" as the philosopher Locke put it. This seems so different from ordinary consciousness that the philosophical tradition has been to separate mind — the seat of consciousness — from brain, the centre of calculation. This dualist perception, championed by Descartes, still survives though it impresses few neuroscientists. What they mostly believe was described by Francis Crick in his book *The Astonishing Hypothesis*. Everything that goes on in our heads, our joys and sorrows, our memories and ambitions, our sense of personal identity and free will, is in fact no more than the behaviour of a vast assembly of nerve cells, he asserted.

According to this view, consciousness and the mind are a by-product of complexity. As the human brain expanded, and developed ever richer neural connections, it one day passed the point at which it became aware of itself. If so, there is no reason in principle why we should not one day develop conscious computers — though it isn't imminent.

The argument explains why it is that man, with the biggest brain in the animal kingdom, has developed the richest inner life. Animal rights activists notwithstanding, the human brain is orders of magnitude more powerful than that of any other creature, though size is clearly not the only criterion. Neanderthal Man had a brain as large as *Homo sapiens*, but never developed language or culture.

The past few years have seen a rush of attempts to explain the nature of consciousness in scientific terms. Daniel Dennett's *Consciousness Explained* (a rather premature title, don't you think?) said Professor Crick has been followed by a more modest volume by Dennett, more cautiously entitled *Kinds of Minds: towards an understanding of consciousness*. This book and another recent contribution are discussed below.

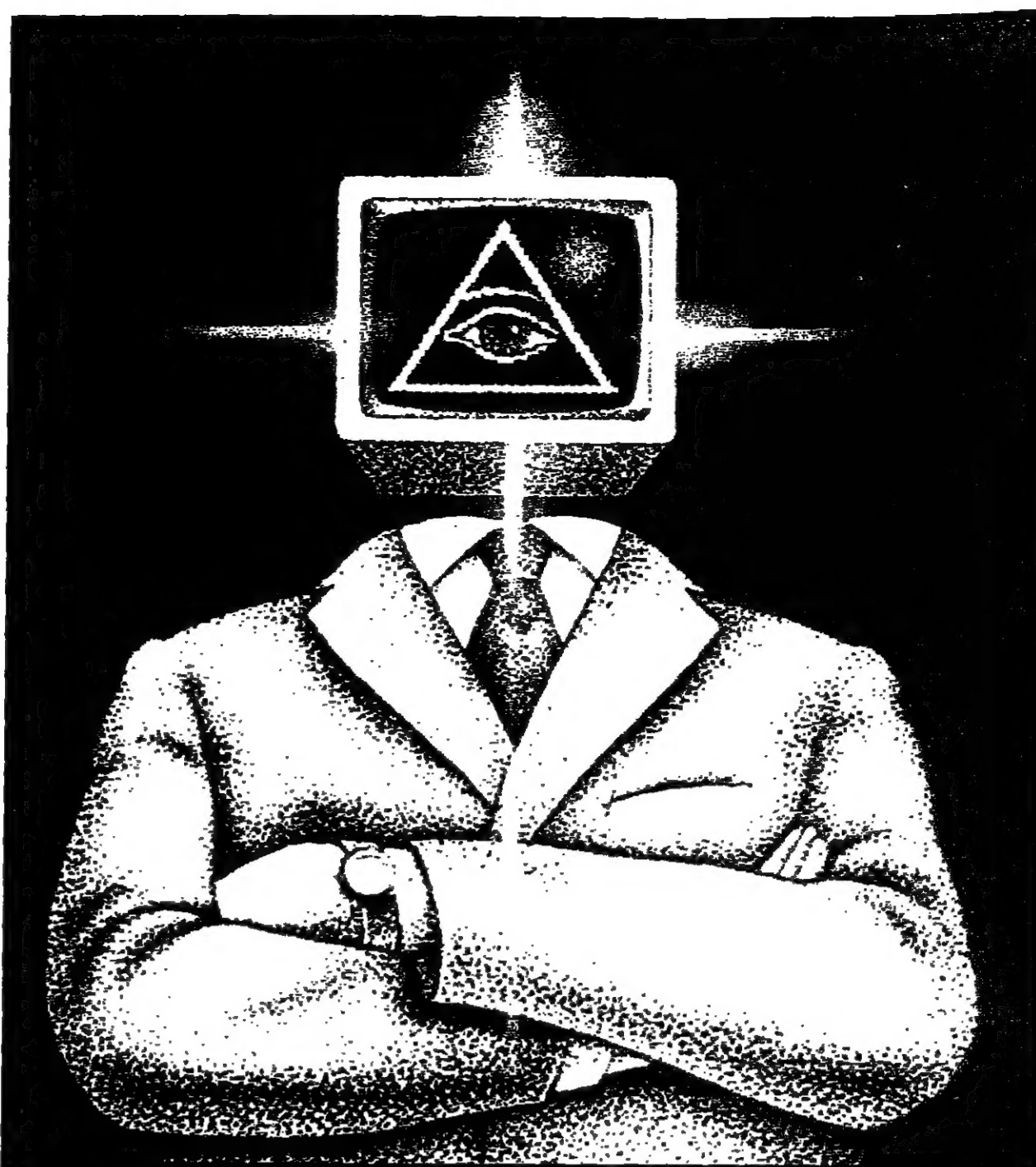
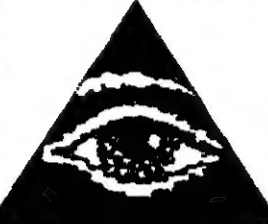
Given the enormous ignorance about how the brain functions, it may seem presumptuous to address the even more mysterious world of consciousness, and that indeed is how some scientists feel. Stuart Sutherland, in *The International Dictionary of Psychology*, declares that consciousness is a fascinating but elusive phenomenon. "It is impossible to specify what it is, what it does, or how it evolved. Nothing worth reading has been written about it." So deep is the ignorance that even raising the subject in a scientific audience used to raise eyebrows, suggesting that you had gone soft in the head. At best, many claims about the nature of consciousness are little better than arm-waving; at worst, they wander into the world of New Age philosophy and mysticism. In between are theories that sound pretty wild but are put forward by very serious people, such as the mathematician Sir Roger Penrose, that consciousness is generated by quantum events in tiny sections of the brain called microtubules.

There is a danger, recognised by Crick, that expectations have been raised too far. "Unless we are careful," he told *The Times Higher Education Supplement* in a recent interview, "results will trickle out slowly and in a few years' time consciousness will become unfashionable again."

Others disagree, as the flood of books makes plain. After years of neglect it is clear that consciousness is on the scientific agenda. But understanding may have to wait a while.

NIGEL HAWKES

MIND WATCHING



You could be a machine

THE SCIENCE OF SELF

It has been described as the most profound mystery of our time. Some say it will never be solved; others argue that it will eventually be laid bare by the astonishing pace of scientific advancement. Whatever the current thinking, there has never been a more exhilarating period in the debate about consciousness.

By a fortunate coincidence, two important books on the conscious mind appear this

month. Penned by two of the best-known names in the field, who also happen to be intellectual adversaries, they offer contrasting views on the origin of our inner souls. Together, *Kinds of Minds* by Daniel Dennett, and *The Conscious Mind*, by David Chalmers, reveal inside views of science's most fashionable and controversial question: what is consciousness and where does it come from?

In *Kinds of Minds*, Dennett embraces neuroscience as a major player in the explanation of consciousness. His position at the renowned Tufts University, Massachusetts, enables him to fuse the best that science and philosophy can offer — he is director of the university's Centre for Cognitive Studies, and Distinguished Arts and Sciences Professor. He is of the opinion that there is nothing special or magic or deep about consciousness. It is stitched into the fabric of the brain.

Dennett argues that solving the easy problems about what physically goes on in the brain will cause the so-called hard problem of consciousness — how we feel and think and experience things — to vanish. "The genuine hard problem is getting others to see that the easy problems are the only problems," Dennett says.

Although he admits that the notion is seductive, Dennett thinks it is wrong to consider consciousness as a single, autonomous entity. It is the

sum of many abilities, or "competencies". He says: "One competency is our ability to discriminate between many different situations and environments, and to respond to them appropriately. Another is that we can report on our environment, so language is important. But another one is the capacity to be moved and feel emotion at certain events."

For him, there is no mysterious missing link between the physical goings-on in our grey matter, and subjective experience. Ultimately each of us is just a brain in a body, and the brain is merely a machine. Of all the drafts of reality this machine is churning out, consciousness is the dominant mental state at any one time. Some might say that this is a rather depressing view of humanity, but an unsurprising one given Dennett's background in artificial intelligence. After all, what is there in his view which distinguishes your brain from a nifty arrangement of silicon chips? Startlingly, nothing. He believes that machines can be conscious.

Dennett cites a well-known thought experiment to support his case. First, he says, think of the billions of neurons firing away inside your brain, sending mental instructions scurrying to and fro in your head. Now imagine that, day by day, these neurons were replaced by tiny silicon chips. Each chip would be wired in an identical way to the neuron it replaced.

and perform the same physical function. At what stage would you no longer be conscious?

"It is preposterous to say there is a part of the brain that snuffs out consciousness. The only thing that stops us from doing this experiment is suitable technology," Dennett says. "After all, there is a treatment for deafness which replaces damaged nerves in the brain with circuitry, and we have no problem with that. And we accept artificial organs, like hearts and kidneys."

Taken to its logical conclusion, you could end up with a scalp full of silicon — in other words, you could be a machine — and still be conscious. Provided the chips allowed you to respond to your environment, describe your feelings and undergo emotional experiences, your new, metal brain would fulfil Dennett's description of con-

sciousness. "People are offended by my view because, if consciousness can be reduced in this way, it means we are no longer special," he says.

According to Sir Roger Penrose, Professor of Mathematical Physics at Oxford University, Dennett's conviction that the problem is just about solved is too optimistic.

"I don't think it is simply a matter of saying that the brain is a computer. And I would disagree with his thought experiment, since I don't think that neurons are simply switches. All these thought experiments make huge false assumptions," he says.

Professor Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of the structure of DNA now studying consciousness at the Salk Institute, San Diego, thinks Dennett, in championing brain matter as the key, is closer to the answer than Chalmers's more philosophical view. Crick points out that some unusual neurological disorders, such as blindsight, may help us to find out how some actions can be carried out without consciousness.

People suffering blindsight have damage in their primary visual cortex, and are blind in part of the visual field. If something is placed in this blind spot, they say they cannot see it. However, if they are asked to point at it, they point correctly more often than not, suggesting they can see it but are not conscious of seeing it.

The explanation of this phenomenon, say neurologists, lies in the way the visual information is processed. The information appears to bypass the primary visual cortex, but sneaks into a part of the brain which allows us to point at things. This, says Dennett, is partial proof that brain matter is sufficient for consciousness.

Crick draws an analogy that Dennett himself is fond of using. "In the early days, people thought there was a life force, but this belief disappeared once we knew the details. That is very much Dennett's attitude, but this argument is an analogy, not a proof. However, there may be something in his idea that the brain is constantly in flux."

"But we don't know how to define consciousness, any more than molecular biologists can really say what the word gene means." Crick feels that philosophical debate will not advance human knowledge of consciousness much further. "New questions will develop as our knowledge develops. Philosophers can be useful because they are not as close to the subject as scientists, but that's as far as it goes."

"I feel that the real test of any consciousness theory is whether it suggests real experiments which we can do, not these thought experiments which philosophers get carried away with."

• *Kinds of Minds*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £11.99

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The concept of 'I'

ROGER SCRUTON

THERE ARE two things that might be meant by "consciousness": one's awareness of the world, and one's self-awareness. I tend to think Dennett's approach is right. Consciousness is a biological fact. The mystery comes with self-consciousness, I and the concept of I.

A computer could ultimately be conscious, but there is a difference between possessing information and having an awareness of what is involved in possessing it. To be aware of its own kind, and to have that desire to mould the world that animals have, it would have to be a very small, compact computer, and perhaps run around on four legs.

Dennett can say there is no mystery to consciousness, because his "consciousness" is seriously underdescribed. The main part of the mystery has been left out: the concept of self, and the self's understanding of its relation to the world. I am inclined to think self-consciousness can be explained, but it is more complicated than Dennett implies. The debate is unlikely to be

fruitful because it is conducted by scientists using amateur philosophy, and philosophers using amateur science.

Of course the scientists will assume that consciousness can be explained. To say that it cannot be explained is to admit that it lies outside their purview. The problem is that in order to explain, scientists and philosophers often adopt the simplest descriptions, which may well be the wrong ones.

Dennett, for example, never mentions the higher forms of consciousness, such as our response to hearing a Beethoven quartet. A scientist can explain this in terms of physical sounds, and shocks reverberating around the central nervous system, but that misses the real meaning; the meaning of this for me, and its uncanny way of proving my "apartness" from physical reality.

• Roger Scruton is Professor of Philosophy at Boston University, Massachusetts. Interview by Giles Coren



Roger Scruton

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The pursuit of human happiness

The textbooks of psychology are filled with descriptions of human misery. Depression, anxiety and alienation are the psychiatrist's stock-in-trade. Yet happiness, the emotion we spend our lives pursuing, gets scarcely a mention and, when it does, it tends to be dismissed rather airily. The psychiatrist Thomas Szasz declared: "Happiness is an imaginary condition, formerly attributed by the living to the dead, now usually attributed by adults to children, and by children to adults."

Yet when psychologists do study happiness, they find there is a lot more of it about than they suspected. Most people, in most circumstances, tend to be happy rather than sad. Even those who have least to be thankful for — the unemployed or the paraplegic — report that on balance their lives have more happiness in them than sorrow.

Faced with this some scientists now think human beings are "hard-wired" for happiness. The sentiment is built into our genes, probably because being happy and outgoing offers clear survival advantages over being morose.

The American psychologist

Do we have a pre-set level of contentment dependent neither on good news nor tragedy?
Nigel Hawkes reports

Ed Diener, of the University of Illinois, has made a long study of happiness, or "subjective wellbeing" as social scientists prefer to call it. He argues that it makes evolutionary sense for people to be happy because negative events and emotions that might pose a risk to survival will stand out more and grab our attention.

His belief has recently been given strong support by a study at the University of Minnesota, where a unique registry of twins has been used to measure the degree to which a happy disposition is inherited. The conclusion reached by David Lykken and Auke Tellegen, and published in a recent issue of *Psychological Science*, is that happiness is indeed heritable.

Psychologists measure wellbeing in a variety of ways. The simplest is to ask people to rate their own lives on a scale such as the "satisfaction with life" scale, which offers five differ-

ent wellbeing levels to select, or the "delighted-terrible" scale which offers seven levels between the two extremes.

There is a risk, as Dr Diener acknowledges, that respondents who report themselves as happy are really miserable but in denial. That can be checked by getting responses from family members, or by asking people to recall on any given day whether they had more positive than negative experiences. A more sophisticated method is to provide respondents with beepers, and ask them to record their mood every time the beeper goes off. In this way, mood can be sampled at random intervals during the day.

Whatever the method, however, the results are broadly the same. American students given the beepers reported they were happy 80 per cent of the time. Measurements on a ten-point scale consistently record scores in the sevens for

Americans. The Japanese and French, measured on the same scale, register in the sixes, though the British are more cheerful, rating 7.5 in a survey carried out in the 1980s.

This study, which covered 24 nations, showed that happiness is only loosely linked to wealth. True, wealthy countries such as Switzerland appeared happy, but so did the Irish, at the other end of the income scale. Only the Portuguese appeared truly gloomy. Dr Diener believes that above

a certain minimum level of wealth, happiness is not greatly dependent on money.

More striking, perhaps, is the finding that people who are in fact as happy as the rest of us. Dr Diener asked a group of working adults and a group of psychology students whether they thought unemployed men were unhappy. All the adults and 95 per cent of the students guessed that they were. Yet when the unemployed were asked the same

question, they emerged as only marginally less happy than the rest of us.

The same is true of great wealth: in one survey people on *Forbes*' list of wealthiest Americans reported only slightly greater happiness than the average American.

Yet it is clear that some people are happier than others. Dr Lykken argues that although people adapt surprisingly quickly to news both good or bad, returning fairly quickly to their normal level of happiness, that level varies from individual to individual. Using the twin registry at Minnesota, he and Dr Tellegen have attempted to tease out the reasons.

They gave a questionnaire to 2,310 of the twins, finding that most of the respondents were pretty content. Education levels, socio-economic status and even marriage accounted for very little of the variance in wellbeing between the individuals. Nor did religious belief. "Religious conversion or being 'born again' is said to be a joyful experience," they report, "but its effect on mood may not

'Only the Portuguese appeared truly gloomy'

be more lasting than being promoted or winning the lottery."

They used data from a group of twins who had taken the happiness test when they were 30, and again when they were 30. They compared the score of one twin at 20 with the other at 30, and vice-versa — a "cross-twin, cross-time" analysis.

For identical twins, who share the same genes, they found that an individual's score correlated with their twin's score after this interval about 80 per cent as strongly as it did with their own score after the same time. For non-identical twins, the correlation was essentially zero.

This means that at least a part of the variation in happiness between individuals is heritable. Dr Lykken believes that this "stable" element accounts for half the variation in happiness — a far greater amount than can be accounted for by variation in individual circumstances.

"No one doubts that making the team, being promoted at work or winning the lottery

tends to bring about an increment in happiness," they write, "just as flunking out, being laid off, or a disastrous investment would be likely to diminish one's sense of wellbeing. But the effects of these events appear to be temporary fluctuations about a stable temperamental set-point. The reported wellbeing of one's identical twin, either now or ten years earlier, is a far better predictor of one's own self-rated happiness than is one's own educational achievement, income, or status."

While it is good news that most people are happy, the very stability of the emotion does pose problems for treating those who are not. "It may be that permanently raising wellbeing above a certain set-point is quite difficult," Dr Diener says. But he still believes that providing help to such people will be easier if we understand what it is that allows most people to be happy.

And the answer to that, he implies, is setting goals that are only slightly above reality — something that chronically gloomy people may be unable to do. "Satisfaction is less a matter of getting what you want than wanting what you have," he remarks.



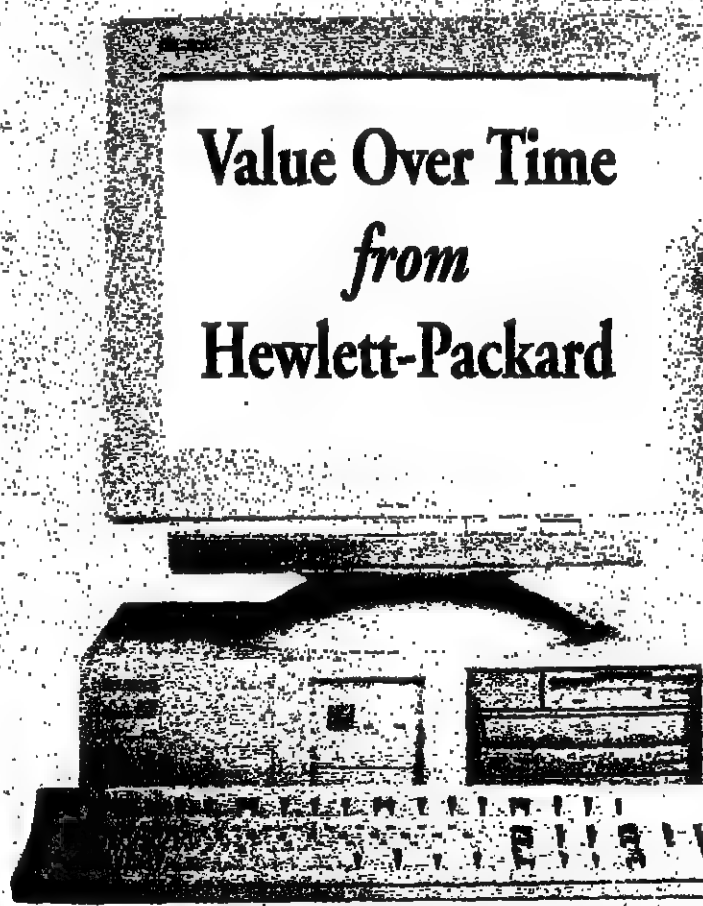
A long-term study of twins has added considerable weight to the proposition that a happy disposition can be passed down from parent to child

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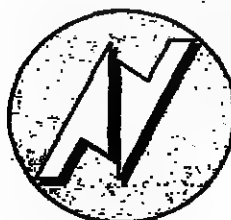
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'Naked DNA' holds the key to a new TB jab

Vaccine unveiled

TWO hundred years ago, Edward Jenner made the first successful vaccination against smallpox. He had a hunch it might work, though no real idea why. Now history is repeating itself.

Scientists in Britain and America are pioneering a new form of vaccination, in which "naked DNA" is injected into the muscle. On the face of it, the idea is as implausible as Jenner's, but like his it seems to work.

Dr Douglas Lowrie and colleagues from the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill have shown that mice can be protected against TB by injecting them with a vaccine made from naked DNA. The results are as good as the existing vaccine, called BCG and originally introduced in 1908.

The DNA actually comes from the agent that causes leprosy, a mycobacterium which is closely related to the one responsible for TB. The team isolated the length of DNA the leprosy bacterium uses to make a protein called hsp65, and injected it directly into the muscles of the mice. They did so without any of the elaborate "vectors" used to carry genes in gene therapy.

The muscle cells then began to manufacture hsp65, using the recipe carried by the DNA. The immune systems of the mice developed antibodies against this foreign substance, enabling them to recognise and



**SCIENCE
BRIEFING**
**Nigel
Hawkes**

fight off the TB agent which carries the same protein.

The team found equally good results could be achieved by injecting the DNA for another mycobacterial protein, and a team from Belgium and the US demonstrated the same for a third. All the results are published in *Nature Medicine*.

"Obviously we're still at the stage of research in mice and a safe and effective vaccine for humans could take years to develop," said Dr Lowrie. "However, this is a very promising start indeed and with TB on the increase any new leads in fighting the disease have to

be welcome.

In the same issue of the journal, a third team from the Weizmann Institute in Israel, Stanford University and the University of California at San Francisco show that naked DNA can also protect mice against a disease that is the mouse equivalent of multiple sclerosis.

This suggests that DNA vaccines may have a big future in protecting against a range of diseases, but why the method works so well remains a mystery. The Mill Hill team show that if the protein, rather than its gene, is injected it does not produce immunity. Possibly the gene works because it can produce low levels of the protein over a long period of time, teaching the immune system to recognise it effectively and mount a response.

Space Age calls on the Stone Age



SCIENTISTS at Newcastle University have married the Stone Age to the Space Age to track the movements of the continents. Geoffrey Blewitt and colleagues use the Global Positioning System of 24 satellites to monitor the movements of the Earth's crust, but needed a stable position for their receiver.

Normally they would have used bedrock but their site had none. They could have put the receiver on top of a concrete pillar, but rejected the idea because concrete can shrink. They took inspiration instead from megaliths. Neolithic standing stones which have endured for 4,000 years.

From a block of carbonate rock they carved a flat-topped pyramid eight feet high, five feet across the base, and weighing 4.5 tons. They excavated a hole in the ground until they reached rock and cemented their megalith to it. From the top, which is flush with the ground, they make measurements every 30 seconds, monitoring crustal movements to less than one millimetre.

How background noise helps the deaf



HERE'S a paradox: some weak signals are easier to pick up if there is some background noise. Now research at St George's Hospital Medical School has shown that cochlear implants — the electronic ears given to the profoundly deaf — would work better if noise were deliberately added to them.

Professor Ted Evans and Robert Morse used the sciatic nerves of loads to model the nerves in the human ear. In the profoundly deaf, the hair cells in the inner ear, or cochlea, which turn sound waves into electrical signals, are missing. They can be replaced by cochlear implants, which pick up sounds and turn them into signals fed to the nerve. The results aren't brilliant.

The researchers found that by adding noise to the electrical stimulus, the output to the nerve much more closely resembles normal hearing. "This is an exciting finding," says Professor Evans, "because it means that we may be able to improve the effectiveness of cochlear implants."

Dr Diener

After 400 years, the story of the real Martin Guerre

The story of Martin Guerre, the most celebrated cuckold in French history, has so far inspired two novels, an operetta, a play, two musicals, a sound-and-light show, three films, an annual festival and more than 400 years of speculation.

In 1556 a man walked into the French village of Artigat, near Toulouse, and announced (falsely) that he was Martin Guerre, a local peasant landowner who had abandoned his beautiful young wife many years earlier.

The tale of the impostor who successfully establishes himself in another man's identity, home and marital bed, still has peculiar resonance, particularly in France, where adultery has traditionally been considered a sport for all.

Now the musical impresario Cameron Mackintosh's version of the tale at the Prince Edward Theatre has added yet another all-singing all-dancing element to a story that has long obsessed

writers, dramatists and film-makers.

In the 1981 film *The Return of Martin Guerre* Gérard Depardieu portrayed the impostor, Arnaud du Thill as a cuddly and plausible peasant. In the American remake, *Sommersby*, Richard Gere and Jodie Foster gave the saga a new twist by setting it in post-Civil War Tennessee.

Most recently it was brought up to date in the award-winning French film *Le Bonheur est dans le Pré*, featuring no less an actor than the philosopher-footballer Eric Cantona. In this interpretation the Martin Guerre character turns out to be a vicious armed robber and his double a depressed toilet-hursh manufacturer who finds himself impersonating another man.

But for all its many later incarnations, the true story of Martin Guerre, which has been pieced together from 16th-century sources by the historian Natalie

Ben Macintyre explains why the rascal who has fascinated authors and film-makers has lost none of his seductive power

Zemon Davies, remains more extraordinary than anything Hollywood or the West End could have devised.

The original Martin Guerre was, it appears, a far from ideal husband and his marriage to Bertrande de Rols got off to a tricky start: he was 14, she was ten; she was beautiful, he was impotent. Ten years later, Guerre abandoned Artigat and his wife, and went off to the wars.

Enter, some years later, Arnaud du Thill, a charming rascal with a prodigious memory and a fat stomach which earned him the nickname "Panette", or beer belly. Arnaud resembled the missing man and had coached himself in the details of Guerre's past. He persuaded Bertrande to go along with the ruse, it seems, by the simple expedient of making



Martin Guerre, the musical

her fall in love with him. The fake Martin Guerre enjoyed his role, his "wife" and his newfound prosperity for three years until a dispute with Guerre's

uncle led to rumours that he was an impostor (fuelled by the village shoemaker, who pointed out that his feet were smaller), and then to a bizarre court case.

Through two trials Arnaud brilliantly maintained his false identity, and would doubtless have got away with it completely if the real Martin Guerre had not stomped back onto the scene, now with the addition of a wooden leg.

Arnaud was convicted of fraud and adultery, hanged and then burnt in the village square. Bertrande, with admirable broadmindedness, once again became the wife of the real Martin Guerre, who had clearly overcome his earlier infirmity as he subsequently fathered two children.

At the time everyone fiercely debated the moral ambiguities of

the case. At precisely what point did Bertrande realise she was better off with the charming fraud than her grumpy and departed husband? What kind of chutzpah made Arnaud think he could pull off his scam? Or did he originally plan to confuse Bertrande for just long enough to take the money?

The story can still touch chords of male and female fantasy. Few women, left in the lurch by a grim husband, would not be tempted to trade their virtue for a gallant impostor, while the seductive role of Arnaud du Thill is one that might cross the mind of even the most morally upright man.

Certainly at least one of the judges who sentenced Arnaud to hang felt a sneaking sympathy for him, tinged with envy. "It was truly a tragedy for this fine peasant," wrote Jean de Coras in his account of the case, published in 1561. But perhaps most importantly,

the strange story casts a light on the institution of marriage both now and then, when revolutionary Protestant ideas were taking hold.

Had the Guerres lived in Reformed Geneva, as Ms. Davies observes, they would never have been allowed to marry so young and a wife who was abandoned by her husband without "having given him any occasion or being in any way guilty", could obtain a divorce after a year.

Over recent months France has had ample opportunity to ponder the nature of marriage after the revelation that the late President Mitterrand for years maintained a second, secret family, alongside his official one.

With Martin Guerre now on the British stage returning for yet another encore, Arnaud and Bertrande would surely be amazed to see how far their remarkable love affair, and its implications, have outlived them.

A grumpy psychiatrist in the chair

Anthony Clare explains why age has mellowed him. Interview by Mary Riddell

Anthony Clare wants to live until he is 80, and then stage a fast exit. Should such a neat demise not be on offer, he would consider other options. "I don't want to die too painfully. I'm terrible about pain."

"I don't go for all this romanticism about death, and I have a sneaking sympathy for euthanasia. In my case, the decision to swallow a bottle of pills would be on pragmatic rather than moral grounds. Would I have the nerve? Would I get it right?"

Least gloom descend, we should record that Clare, the nation's favourite psychiatrist, is a sprightly 53 and as fit in wind, limb and mind as anyone could be, given an overnight drive from Kerry, a day of board meetings in Dublin and a residual doubt as to whether there is enough pizza in the freezer for the children's tea.

Besides, we are enjoying our ramble round suffering and mortality. "I'd stick needles in you, but I don't want you sucking them in me," Clare is saying cheerfully. This, one

fears, may say less about his pain threshold than his attitude to interrogation.

As host of Radio 4's *In The Psychiatrist's Chair* he is adept at winking out the true personalities and neuroses of his celebrity guests. His voice is mellifluous, his manner compelling, his method of baring souls as effortless as skinning sausages.

Away from the studio Clare appears at first meeting a rather tetchy man. The telephone rings in his office at St Patrick's Hospital, Dublin, where he is medical director. "Professor Clare," he barks, and one cannot help noting his allegiance to his title. Anyway, the call appears to upset him. "He's not taking his medication? Why? He was before." For his interviewees as for his psychiatric patients, the prescription is similar. Swallow your medicine. It will do you good. You will feel so much better afterwards.

Tomorrow Professor Clare begins a new BBC2 television series, *The Seven Ages of Man*, in which five celebrity guests ponder the problems of growing old.

The title harks back to Shakespeare's definition of decrepitude ("sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything") in *As You Like It*. George Melly, subject of the first programme, does not like it at all. As he tells Clare, he mourns both the passing of youth and the fact that sex at 70 would be "very undignified and even repellent".

George hates getting old," says Clare. "He described the stages he went through — heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual — and it's all faded now. There was some pathos." Molly Parkin, *au contraire*, embraces her bus-pass status. Hardly surprising since, as she tells Clare, the nadir of her youth was lying in an alcoholic stupor in a Smithfield gutter, being stepped over by the meat porters whom she had previously been pleasuring in the ladies' lavatory.

What is there in Clare to inspire such bizarre confidences? His training, certainly. There is, he says, only a frail dividing line between many of his star guests and the string of damaged depressives who sit in his Dublin office chair.

His own life comes across as pretty normal. His father, a Dublin lawyer, sounds a secure man; his mother, Mary Agnes, was a difficult and suspicious woman whose impenetrable neuroses helped to drive the young Anthony into psychiatry. Happily married, he has seven children aged between 12 and 30 — a result, he once claimed, of his lack of competence at contraception. Now he says his wife, Jane, was just very good at having children.

A comfortable existence, then, untainted by failure or tragedy. "No, there hasn't been much of that. I'm a voyeur. I live off other people's tragedies." But his best friend died of a heart attack at 50 and, three years ago, his young housekeeper flung herself to her death from a bridge a few days after being imprisoned by knife-wielding intruders at the Clare home. "That was a tragedy for her family. When I think of myself being scarred by tragedy — no, I've been very lucky."

And still there is about him a faintly gloomy air — something he ascribes to his mother's influence. "The bit of her that I inherited and have to keep in check is that I'm nothing like as optimistic as I might sound. I'm very suspicious and a trifle paranoid. People I interview often say: 'You'll be disappointed in me. I'm a happy person.' But I'm not only looking for psycho-

pathology. I'm also looking for something to compensate for my mother's suspicion."

His wariness extends to interviewers. One particular piece about him had rinkled, he said. It was actually anodyne, but Clare is a thin-skinned man unaccustomed to censure or to failure at anything, apart from politics. "I ran for a (Trinity) University

'Like my mother, I'm very suspicious and a trifle paranoid'

seat on the Senate. I would have been useless. I was so relieved that I didn't win. Politicians are workaholics or poor depressed melancholic souls."

While Clare would never so describe himself, he is the most intense of men. Not a drinker or a golfer or a "doer", he has one prime release valve. "I offload a lot on my wife, and I'm not sure that's fair. Sometimes I'm difficult and irritable. I don't think I've handled tension as well as I might. It does get me down."

Much as he would deny any hint of a midlife crisis, and much as he worries that Jane sacrificed her talent to child-

rearing, her changing status clearly affects him. "The children are growing up. She has more freedom, she's living it, and it's difficult for me. I think: 'Bugger, I've got to go home and do this and that, and she's not there.'"

"People think men miss having someone to put out the shirts and do the meal, but it's an emotional thing: that she's there when I need her."

"At the moment she's in Kerry, and she wanted me to go down for the weekend. God knows why. After a week here and the drive down, I'm pretty grumpy when I arrive."

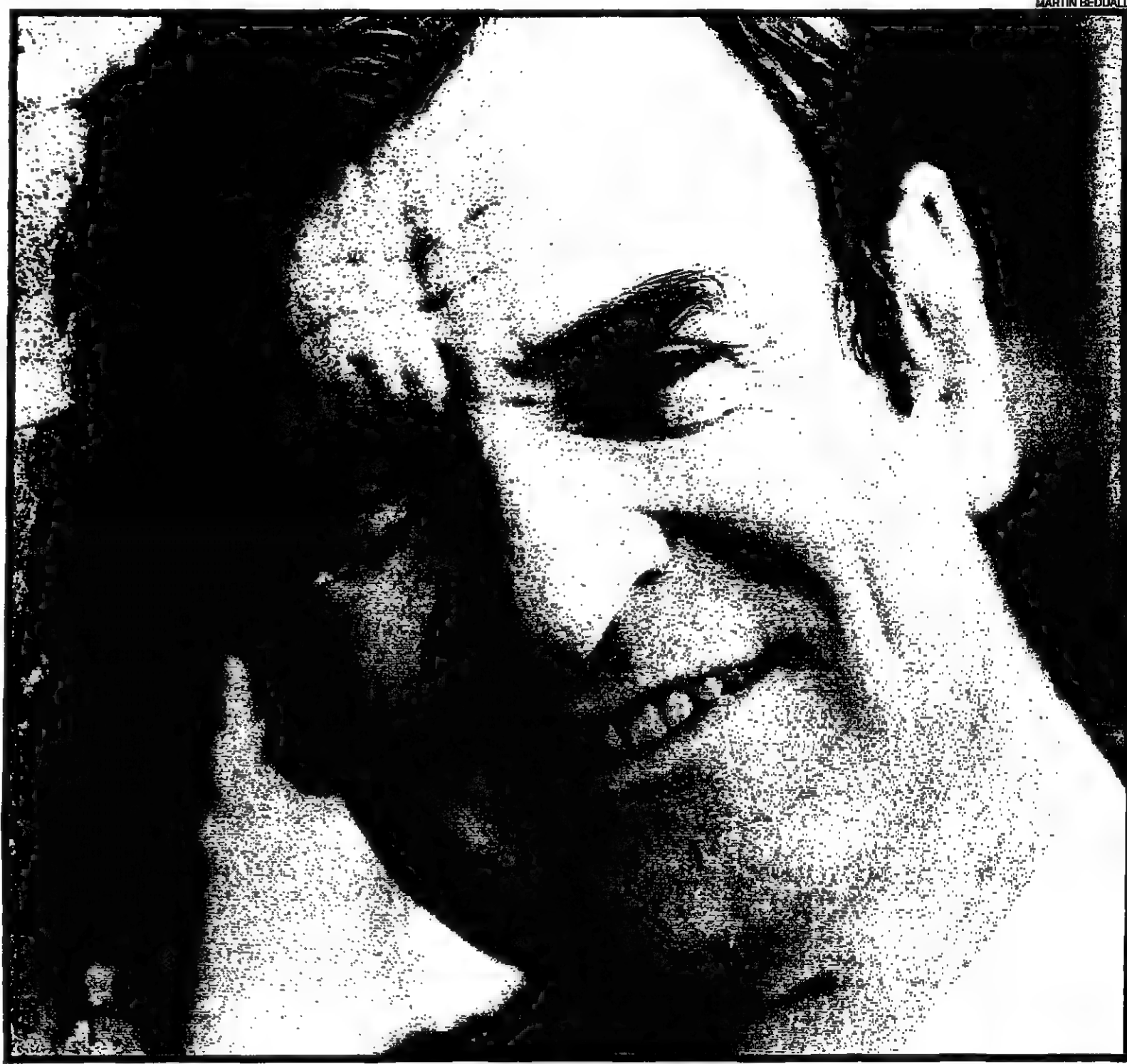
And perhaps that, in the end, partly explains why people tell their darkest secrets to Professor Clare. Neither saintly nor censorious, he is, at times, just like them. Cross, selfish, ambitious. All of those traits he will admit to, although he says the last one has gone with age. "To hell with building a CV. Ten years ago it was different."

But he does retain the same old longing to understand what makes people tick. "It's not that money American thing of rapport. It's finding out the psychological factors. If Adolf Hitler sat in your chair, or Frederick West, you'd have to understand them." Almost all his subjects submit, with the recent exception of Denis Healey, who offered a lot of Coleridge quotations and clever remarks and little insight into his own feelings.

"He was one of the few really contented people I've met. I'm not so certain about the people round him. I'm sure Lady Healey would say he's a monster sometimes."

And how contented is Clare, whose series on ageing has forced him to confront his own mortality? He dislikes growing older, he says, but there are compensations. More freedoms. Fewer pressures. Thus, he counts himself a happy man. Though not, of course, completely.

● The Seven Ages of Man starts on BBC2 tomorrow at 7pm



Anthony Clare says there is only a frail dividing line between many of his star guests and the damaged depressives who sit in his Dublin office

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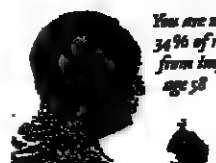
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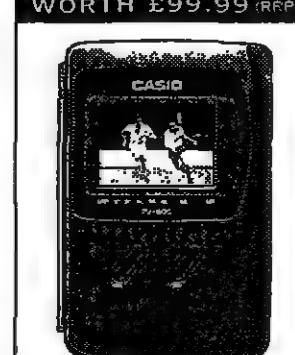
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

A fascination with film links the six young artists in a new show at MOMA in Oxford
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ THEATRE

At Chichester, Harriet Walter stars in a new production of Ibsen's landmark drama, *Hedda Gabler*
FIRST NIGHT: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP

Patti Smith, the Seventies icon with a Nineties presence, is on the comeback trail at Shepherd's Bush
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ MUSIC

The conductor Mikhail Pletnev brings his Russian National Orchestra to the Proms for the first time
CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday

Anthony Murphy on George Butterworth, the musical genius who died in the trenches 80 years ago today

Why age shall not wither an Oxford rebel

Eighty years ago today, the composer George Butterworth was killed in action on the Western Front. He was 31. A lieutenant in the Durham Light Infantry and acting commander of his company, he had been put forward for the Military Cross after an act of gallantry. He was to be further recommended after his death, for heroism in constructing a vital trench in the front line. He had just escorted the divisional commander around the defences at dawn when he was shot dead by a sniper's bullet. It is a mark of his modesty that few of his fellow officers and men knew anything about his growing reputation as one of Britain's most promising composers.

Butterworth's friends were not surprised by the manner of his death. He had displayed leadership qualities early on, as Head of School at Aysgarth and as an outspoken and often maverick scholarship boy at Eton. A hero on the games field and a fearless debater at both Eton and Oxford, he proved a progressive and forceful president of the university's musical club.

Arriving at Trinity College in 1904, he had already enjoyed resounding success at Eton with his piece *Barcarolle*, and with a new composition, the *Quarrette for Strings*, under his arm, he soon attracted attention among undergraduates. Within a year he was setting verses from Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* to music, although it is unclear whether any of this early material is included in his final song cycle: Butterworth was an inveterate reviser and many works were long in gestation. Although he came from a middle-class London background, Butterworth was

brought up in York, where he imbibed some of the gritty humour of the North. He was impatient of stuffiness and at Oxford soon gained the reputation of one prepared to take on the Establishment. Hugh Allen, then a leading music don, remarked of him and his friend R.O. Morris, also from York: "There goes more red revolution than in the whole of Russia."

Music had long possessed Butterworth, and the routine

His teachers at the RCM did not know what to make of him

minutes of academic work would always take second place. Furthering the aims of the English Folk-Song Society in preserving traditional music became almost an obsession and, to his father's dismay, he abandoned all thoughts of reading for the Bar.

After Oxford, he had brief spells as a music critic on *The Times* and a teacher at Radley before joining Morris for a desultory year at the Royal College of Music, where he had an uneasy time with his teachers, who did not know what to make of him. Then followed three years of sustained creativity and the output for which he is now best remembered.

The song cycle *A Shropshire Lad* ranks alongside the lieder of Schubert in its beauty and power. If the melodies owe their inspiration to English folk song, they are original and moving expressions

of musical genius, sensitive to the poetic line and matching perfectly the mood of Housman's melancholy and prophetic verse. The piano accompaniment is a triumph of sensitive understatement.

The final song, *Is my team ploughing?*, with its dialogue between a dead man and his friend can hardly have been sung with more spine-tingling pathos than by Bryn Terfel in his recent recording. The first of the songs, *Lowliest of Trees*, with its beautiful falling phrase, became the main motif of the *Rhapsody for Orchestra: A Shropshire Lad*, which runs through the whole gamut of emotions in reflecting Housman's verse. Butterworth had already composed two lovely orchestral *Idylls* based on English folk tunes. A third *Idyll*, perhaps Butterworth's most famous piece, *The Banks of Green Willow*, inspired by two folk songs which had haunted him since his Oxford days, was first performed in March 1914, conducted by a youthful Adrian Boult.

Two further song cycles followed. The first, set to further poems from Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*, include *On the Idle Hill of Summer*, where Butterworth's piano accompaniment reaches unusually operatic proportions to dramatic effect. The second, *Low Blows as the Wind Blows*, is virtually unknown yet no less impressive. Consisting of four poems by W.E. Henley for baritone and string quartet, it has now thankfully been recorded in its original form by Martin Okenham and the Bingham String Quartet. This music, perhaps more than any other, indicates the direction Butterworth might have taken had he lived. The final song, *On the way to Kew*, is a triumph.

There are several more



Butterworth (top hat, centre) at Eton. The scholarship boy became noted for his compositions while at the school

exquisite songs (*Requiescat* is a poignant memorial to his mother, who died in 1911), a collection of *Folk Songs from Sussex* with piano accompaniment, and some choral works, mainly arrangements from traditional carols.

Despite his success and growing reputation, Butterworth was intensely self-critical and often dissatisfied with

his world. The war seemed to provide an outlet for his frustration. He joined up immediately with several friends, including Morris, although their initial decision to serve in the ranks was later revised and they accepted commissions in the same regiment.

Before he left for the Front, Butterworth went through all

his music manuscripts, destroying those which did not meet his exacting standards. The rest he left in the care of Vaughan Williams, his friend.

Vaughan Williams felt Butterworth's loss most keenly of all those men lost in the war. It had been Butterworth who suggested that he write a symphony, and he dedicated

the revision of *A London Symphony* to Butterworth's memory.

When Butterworth's old tutor at Eton, Robert Brooker, heard of his death on the Somme, he immediately wrote to the composer's father: "The boy lived his life as a medieval knight: *sans peur et sans reproche*." It was a fitting epitaph.

THEATRE

Where there's a whim

THE MOVIE of *Red Balloon* is buried so deep in the big round floppy disk I carry in my head that I cannot even be sure I saw it. But it is safe to say that Albert Lamorisse's screen original was less dependent on words and music than Anthony Clark's stage reworking and, I fear, rather better at communicating a whimsical magic than Clark's production. Much as we theatre fanatics may hate to admit it, the camera is capable of greater trickery and subtler effects when it comes to suggesting that a balloon has a mind of its own.

Nicky Adams's mop-headed Pascal lives in a curiously contradictory Paris. It appears to be perfectly safe to ask a passing stranger if he will walk you home beneath his umbrella but highly risky to go to school. The playground is packed with bullies in droopy shorts or 1950s dresses. Home is not a lot more fun for Pascal either, for his parents are a quarrelsome, mean-minded pair. Bring home a stray kitten, and what does Papa do? Why, sing "the cat's pooped on the carpet" and climax this piece of recitative by ordering Mama to throw the creature out.

So poor Pascal, an only child, has to look elsewhere for a cure for his chronic loneliness. Hence his growing friendship with a large red balloon that follows him

The Red Balloon Olivier

around, wreaking salutary havoc. It biffs heads and bottoms, it places itself in provocative positions, then jumps away at the last moment, so that the school caretaker ends up punching his headmaster, a Kafkaesque figure in black, or knocking a blonde wig off the head of Pascal's form mistress.

The children around me seemed amused enough by all this, and not particularly worried by the omnipresence of the balloon's puppeteer, a gentleman in black shirt and red braces wielding wires and wooden poles. Indeed, a little girl became inconsolable when the playground hoodlums struck Pascal's balloon with a catapult, and it slowly puffed out the last of its helium, finishing in a raggedy red blob on the ground. She at least had the imagination to meet the challenge.

Since the show was aimed at her rather than at me, it may not matter much that my imagination did less well. Though Adams's Pascal has a puckish charm, I never quite felt he had the same delighted rapport with his balloon as with his cat. I found myself more intrigued by what might be called the cultural anthropology of balloons as discovered by Lamorisse and now reported by Clark.

After all, what happens after the death of the red balloon? It is followed by a mourning ritual, in which relatives of every size and hue move to orange, come to hover over the tiny corpse. Since they are conducted there by humans in multicoloured top hats and tails, the effect is more celebratory than sad. So much so that, on opening night, a large red balloon suddenly joined them, suggesting that reincarnation also has a place in dirgeable religious beliefs.

What to conclude? Mark Vibran's songs have a nice lilt. Clark has the skill to transform a few actors in mufti into a bustling street scene; but the show is too long. It may intermittently be seen, morning and afternoon matinees only, until the end of August.

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Full-blooded Rossini

This year's Glyndebourne season has been memorable for many individual performances but above all for its off-centre repertory. Though a sector of the audience may still regard opera as something to endure for the sake of a sumptuous picnic, few will not have been stirred by works like *Theodora*, *Lulu* and *Ermione*.

OPERA Ermione/Glyndebourne

too risky for our national companies but presented here in stimulating succession. And though opening night of the *Ermione* revival on Friday attracted less attention than

the new Handel and Berg productions, it was no less significant: the dramatic and musical force of the performance said much about the power of this neglected work.

Rossini called his opera "my little *Guillaume Tell* in Italian", a big claim. It failed at its 1819 Naples premiere and was not heard again until 1977, and it is only in the last decade that its strengths have been widely appreciated. Rossini may have written to formulae but he never sold out to convention: indeed, *Ermione* shows him pushing against it to conjure up the tug-of-love drama drawn from Euripides via Racine. There are few show-stopping numbers, but the



Powerful presence: Anna Caterina Antonacci's Ermione

musical portraits of the main characters are all penetrating. It is hard to imagine the dark, often striking score receiving stronger advocacy than from Andrew Davis here: he draws taut, theatrical playing from the London Philharmonic, which after a long spell in the pit now sounds like an opera orchestra in the best sense.

But it is on the singers that any Rossini performance stands or falls, and this one stands. Anna Caterina Antonacci, who in various productions has made the title role her own, returns to lead the cast and sings in full-throated, vibrant voice. Her stage presence as the sex-obsessed anti-heroine is powerful, and she declaims her naive Italian with relish. As her rival Andromaca, Diana Montague captures her grief and tragic plight in stylish mezzo singing. The tenor Paul Nilon portrays the lecherous ruler Pirro as a nauseating Nero-like character, and except in the high outbursts sings him smoothly too. Paul Austin Kelly's Oreste is musical poise. The tenor Justin Lavender (a refined Pilade) and Latvian bass Egils Silins (a virile-sounding Fenice) make notable Glyndebourne debuts.

JOHN ALLISON

Innocence and experience

HARD-CORE Handelians will have to wait until tonight to hear a full-length opera. *Semele*, but the appetite was whetted on Friday with the excerpts from *Julius Caesar* given by Rene Jacobs with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Little idea of the work's dramatic sweep — let alone its emotional and psychological depths — can be given in five short sections. But one could at least hear two of Handel's most memorable numbers: Cleopatra's moving lament *Se pietà di me non senti*, with its doleful bassoon colouring, and Caesar's hunting aria *Va tacito e nascosto*.

Maria Bayo won most hearts with her affecting delivery of the former, but I found the liberties she took with her line — sliding and swooping for expressive effect — inappropriate. Andreas Scholl showed greater stylistic awareness as Caesar. His countertenor is a happy compromise between Anglican and American sensuality, combining purity of tone with controlled passion.

These two were joined by three other stylish soloists — Susan Gritton, Jamie MacDougall and Peter Kooy — in Bach's *Magnificat*. Scholl's poignant *Esurientes* and the following *Suscepit Israel* for the two sopranos and countertenor were among the vocal highlights. The OAE's contribution was first-rate, special mention being deserved for Anthony Robson's plangent oboe d'amore and the exhilarating trumpets throughout.

Rhythms were buoyant and phrasing supple in Bach's Suite No 3 in D major. The idea of varying the repeats of the celebrated Air by giving them to solo strings was interesting but, in the cavernous space of the Albert Hall, of doubtful wisdom.

No doubt viewers of the

BBC PROMS OAE/Jacobs EUYO/Davis Albert Hall/Radio 3

forthcoming BBC 1 relay will fare better. The following night's Prom was also recorded for television, though the massed ranks of the European Union Youth Orchestra (some 90 string players alone) were never in danger of being inaudible. With 4,000 candidates annually to choose from, this orchestra represents the cream of youthful European talent. They work together for two periods each year and then embark on a concert tour, culminating, this time, with their Proms appearance. Such is the level of talent and concentration of activity that strangers from 15 countries of the EU can after a short time give the impression of a lifetime's acquaintance.

Under the baton of Colin Davis, the tricky opening bars of Strauss's *Don Juan* were tossed off with supreme ease. The only blot on an equally fresh performance of Elgar's *Enigma Variations* was the dreadful quality of the electronic organ piped through the speakers in the finale. But this was not enough to erase the memory of some of the most tenderly drawn character portraits ever heard in this work. In Sibelius's Second Symphony, Davis was discreetly proactive, pushing on just enough to let the music generate its own momentum. An authoritative interpretation, executed with superb technical assurance by these young players.

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Matthew Parris



Our Kilimanjaro correspondent reports on a grandad's brave ascent to the roof of Africa

My Chagga-speaking porter has nicknamed me "Machame babu". "Machame" is the challenging western route up Kilimanjaro we have just tackled. "Babu" means "grandfather".

I do not like this name. But my two younger companions, Dave the postman and Julian the Liberal Democrat, noted my fury and chanted "Babu" until all the porters took it up. Our guide, Joffrey, explained diplomatically that the Chagga use "grandad" not to denote age but to indicate affectionate respect — like "old chap". This does not impress me, but the name has stuck.

Well, Babu I may be, but I reached the top of the mountain. All of us did, even the Liberal Democrat. The postman, after a short fit of intense depression two-thirds of the way up, reached the crater floor as though with an urgent special delivery. The Babu came third, plodding resolutely and breathing hard as the oxygen thinned.

I am one of life's secret plodders. You always get there, if you plod. It is the only way to tackle a 19,000ft mountain. Kilimanjaro is not a difficult climb — thousands achieve it, by the easier route, every year — but it is relentless and can be dispiriting if nausea and migraine attack you in the higher reaches. The key is to trudge forward, eyes on the ground before your feet.

The Machame route starts at some 5,000ft in the village of the same name. Leaving the flowering bushes, tin-roofed huts and banana trees behind, you soon enter deep rainforest in which the whole volcanic massif, some 40 miles in diameter, is skirted. Birds and monkeys call, your pass becomes a knee-deep trough of slimy, red mud, and the rain drips ceaselessly down.

Just below 9,000ft, the trees give way to giant, tree-high heather. Our first night was spent here. Joffrey and the porters set up tents and by some miracle — which was to recur whenever we stopped — produced a fire from the wet wood at our feet, sweet tea and far too much food from the boxes carried on their heads. We slept deeply.

On our second day, we climbed to 12,500ft, emerging into tundra as the heather shrunk, the ground-sel grew to 10ft, and the sun came out. Below us was a sea of cloud. The third day was spent acclimatising and exploring the great Shira Plateau, uninhabited except by civet cats and buffalo. On our fourth day we ascended to 16,000ft at Arrow Glacier.

The tundra had given way to moon-scape — a steep clinker-strewn desert of dust and outcropping lava.

From the crater's edge, we could see hundreds of miles of the African plains

If we'd slipped we might have tobogganed to perdition on the rocks below.

Clinging to the edge of an icefield steeper than a roof-top, gasping in the thin, freezing air, with a half moon burnishing the mountains and lights twinkling from towns two miles below, where the inhabitants were all asleep, I had some sombre thoughts about the fragility of life — especially my own. The moon set. The sky was lit by so many stars that the canopy seemed not dark with points of light, but a silver and gold blanket strewn across with a thin black veil.

We made it. We made it to the rocks, and then to the top. We crawled over the edge of the Great West Breach, where a volcanic explosion blasted a gap out of the crater rim — and we lay panting. Dave was sick. Infinitely laboriously, we then gazed at torse pace up the last 350ft of crater wall to Uhuru Peak. The sun had risen now. It was merciless. The sky was purple, the ice blinding, the view unreal.

Descending, we encountered Japanese and German fashion victims by the dozen, in matching purples and wrap-around shades, retching their way up the easier but gruelling Marangu (or "Coca-Cola") route. Everyone goes for the top. It's a pity because the lower slopes are more beautiful. You could have a marvelous time contouring at 15,000ft, aiming no higher...

On the other hand...

John Major called for decisiveness over Europe when he was a backbencher. Now he should give a lead

Seventeen years of indecision is enough

William Rees-Mogg

On Saturday, I was looking through some old papers and came across the issue of *The Times* for November 13, 1979. It takes one back close to the beginning of the period of Conservative government, 17 years ago. It is an important date in the history of *The Times*, for this was the first issue after the stoppage which had lasted since November 30 of the previous year. As I sat reading the paper, I was amazed by the number of stories which are still running. The lead story concerns the bad relations between the United States and Iran. The headline now seems old-fashioned: "Mr Carter cuts off Iranian oil imports". I do not think *The Times* continued for long to call American Presidents "Mr" in headlines: it reminds me of those pre-1939 news bulletins which referred to "Herr Hitler".

Yet the US-Iran dispute is still bubbling up under Mr Clinton.

It is, however, the British news which seems to be set in concrete: one wonders why we bother to produce different newspapers each day, when half the stories could be covered in standing type which would last for decades at a time. The English batsmen had collapsed; John Woodcock opened his report from Brisbane with the words: "As they usually do, England made hard work of batting here today."

They made 176 all out, with Geoffrey Boycott scoring 11 before being caught at first slip.

Many of the other home stories are equally familiar. The Chancellor makes a speech saying there will be "little room for tax cuts in the Budget". Lloyd's names are disputing large claims for losses. There will be further delay to the building of the new British Library. Sadly, four men have been sentenced for the murder of Carl Bridgewater. In the letters, Lord Droghda and Sir Claus Moser

write of the need for improvements to the facilities of the Royal Opera House, "which are not only disgraceful but hopelessly inadequate" and asks for support for the Development Appeal. The King Edward Hospital Fund calls for the refitting of the old London hospitals.

Save the Church clock at ten to three? And is there honey still for tea?

It is rare for an ex-Editor to be able to claim a scoop 17 years after the event, yet I can reasonably claim that my choice of the lead letter to the Editor, for the first day of *The Times*'s return, has turned out to be one. The trouble is that no one has noticed it, or at least I had not, between that day and this. At first sight the letter does not look like a scoop at all. It is a mild Euro-sceptic argument of a kind which, like the English batting collapses, has been recurring ever since.

Only with new and permanent financial arrangements, involving in particular the fundamental reform of the common agricultural policy, which will reduce the central budget as well as spread the visible net cost-benefit of membership far more equally than at present, can the EEC remain united and flourish... unless we can jointly work out the radical changes needed and put them speedily into effect the case for Britain staying inside becomes increasingly difficult to sustain.

This sounds very like David Heathcoat-Amory's resignation let-

ter, though I do not think he used the word "speedily", which 17 years later has a certain charm of its own. The signatories of the letter included a table designed to show how little Britain could afford to make what was then the massive net contribution to the EEC budget of £88 per family of four. According to their figures, the gross domestic product per head of the member nations of the EEC showed that Denmark was top with 100, Germany had 92, Belgium 87, The Netherlands 84, France

Tony Marlow, who is still a Euro-sceptic and indeed is still very much Tony Marlow; and John Major, whose career we have all followed with interest.

"Unless we can jointly work out the radical changes needed, and put them speedily into effect, the case for Britain staying inside becomes increasingly difficult to sustain."

The young John Major was to that degree a Euro-sceptic. Of course the young Tony Blair was at least equally sceptical in the 1983 general election, when as a Labour candidate he was committed to Michael Foot's manifesto. Now John Major faces the same question in a somewhat different form. Will he include a commitment not to join the European single currency, at least for the next Parliament, in his general election manifesto? Can he fight the next election on the present proposition that the Government does not know whether it will enter the single currency or not, though if it decides to do so it will have a referendum on the policy? If he sticks to that wheezy compromise, has he any chance of winning the election?

Whoever wins the election will have to make the single currency choice in the early months of government, by the summer of 1997, if Britain is to enter in 1999. This is not therefore some remote hypothetical question about a decision which could conceivably arise in later

years, but an immediate choice which has to be made. It is bound to become a central issue in the election campaign. A large majority of the newly adopted Conservative candidates would prefer a commitment in the manifesto not to join the single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. There is also a majority against joining among Conservative workers and among voters. The Labour Party is half committed to joining if it can, but is itself seized with an intolerable indecision. The Liberal Democrats are in favour of joining, though subject to a referendum. Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which could take vital votes from the Conservatives in many constituencies, would be disarmed if John Major committed himself not to enter the single currency.

The strange thing is that John Major does not himself believe that Britain ought to enter a single currency, and if he is elected Britain will almost certainly refuse to do so. He seems to believe that Britain benefits by maintaining an open negotiating position, though the big issues have all been settled and our European partners can see through the compromise. He wants to keep Kenneth Clarke, who is in favour of the single currency, in his Cabinet. It is likely that indecision on the single currency would make it impossible for the Conservatives to win the next general election. Is Kenneth Clarke worth the price?

No one should blame a Prime Minister for changing the views he held as a young backbencher; we should all learn from experience. But political experience shows that indecision is usually fatal. It would be disastrous for the Conservatives to enter the general election unable to answer the simple question, "A single currency — yes or no?"

101 dangers for Tony Blair

Peter Riddell says Labour needs to shake off the mentality of opposition

G overning is very different from campaigning. The choices and compromises of office require different skills and instincts from sticking to a line and making instant rebuttals. Virtually all of Labour's experience, however, is with the latter: as one battered frontbencher remarked, "we have learnt to be rather good at opposition".

Only seven out of the bloated Shadow team of 101 have ever served as ministers or whips and, including them, a mere 14 were even MPs when Labour was last in government. A failure to understand the adjustment needed for office could fatally weaken any Blair government, as it undermined the Clinton Administration in its first two years.

The secret lies partly in not raising expectations which cannot be fulfilled, and partly in blinding in the party to the programme before the general election ("getting your betrayal in first" as it is dubbed by the leadership). Tony Blair is trying to do both of these with his mini-manifesto, which will go to a ballot of Labour Party members in the autumn. But sensible though this is, it is not enough. Aspiring ministers need to understand how to exercise power.

The Labour leadership is trying to educate its shadow spokesmen in the realities of office, notably with a series of seminars at Templeton College, Oxford. Veterans of the Wilson and Callaghan administrations — the Long Retreat rather than the Long March, perhaps — are being wheeled out along with some retired senior civil servants, quite a number of whom are sympathetic to "new" Labour. To judge by the accounts of participants, it is rather like that passage



In John le Carré's *The Secret Pilgrim*, when the retired George Smiley gives an after-dinner talk to the trainees at Sarant: "the fit, expectant, faces of his young audience as they waited on the master's word". I am not so sure about the "fit", but there is a sense of "tell us what it is really like to sit behind a ministerial desk" about the Templeton exercise.

One of the star turns of these occasions is Gerald Kaufman, a minister of state when Labour lost office in 1979, who might have enjoyed a long period in the Cabinet rather than merely in the Shadow Cabinet, if the party had remained in office. He remains witty and waspish, as well as shrewd, and his book *How to be a Minister* remains the best contemporary guide to the trade, if not the statecraft, of government.

Published in 1980, the book has

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

been revised and updated by Mr Kaufman, giving the names of previously anonymous people, and will be republished next February, in handy time for the election. He offers sensible tips about, for example, how not to get cut off from Parliament and the party (avoiding the twin diseases of ministerialitis and departmentitis), how to get on with your private secretary and your driver (the two key people in ministerial life), how to handle meetings, lobbying groups and the press.

Any aspiring minister should also read the memoirs of Roy Jenkins, *A Life at the Centre*, and of Denis Healey, *The Time of My Life*, not least for their reminders of life outside politics. And for a cold shower of economic reality, I recom-

mend Nigel Lawson's *The View from Number 11* and Joel Barnett's *Inside the Treasury*, for accounts of the conflicts inevitable in any government over public spending.

But the closest parallels for the Blair team are from the experience of Bill Clinton's Administration. Mr Blair and his advisers have already learnt much from the campaigning techniques of the Clinton team, as well as from his early errors in office, such as being diverted into secondary issues. Yet the most pertinent lessons are about how the Clinton campaign-ers did, or often did not, adapt to office.

The dangers are vividly brought out in Jeffrey Birnbaum's book, *Madhouse: The Private Turmoil of Working for the President*. This is one of the most revealing political books I have read all year, in its description of the frustrations and

disillusionment of six officials in the Clinton White House. They range from Howard Paster, the chief White House lobbyist, who lasted less than a year, the former press secretary Desha Myers, the media adviser Jeff Eiler and the political consultant Paul Begala to policy specialists Gene Sperling and Bruce Reed.

In each case, proximity to the heights of power — its symbols as well as its substance — proved intoxicating. Some of the six were not suited to the high altitude, and stumbled and fell. In other cases, the disillusionment was more subtle — an inability to cope with the complexities of the Washington bureaucracy and Congress, even before Newt Gingrich's Republicans took over the House. None of the six had any training or proper preparation for these posts. They were chosen to work in the White House only because of their efforts in political campaigns, in some cases exclusively in Clinton's of 1992, rather than because of any experience in past administrations.

As Birnbaum writes:

Electoneering mostly involves the manipulation of images or perceptions: it is largely a public relations effort, shallow and short-term. Governing also entails political posturing, but it is, fundamentally, the process of making real changes in programmes that affect the daily lives of individual citizens. A White House is not just about rhetoric, but it is also about taking action and following through.

He quotes Bruce Reed saying that "moving from the fast-paced world of a campaign to the laborious realm of governing was like running into water: the deceleration was disorienting and massive".

Of course, unlike their American counterparts, Blair's team has the advantage of long experience of Parliament. And in Britain the senior ranks of the Civil Service provide a framework of continuity — although that is not a lasting protection for a poor minister. But the similarities of attitude, and of a campaign mentality, are striking. Too many of Blair's 101 still look more comfortable with the words and gestures of opposition than with the constraints and demands of office.

Busman's hols

AS LABOUR heavyweights such as John Prescott, the deputy leader, head off to Marbella this week with their buckets and spades to start the party's campaign to win the support of sunbaked holiday-makers and expats in Spain, they will find that the Tories have got there first.

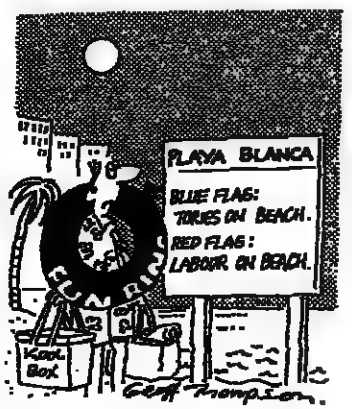
The name "Portillo", new Labour's Castilian nemesis, is emblazoned everywhere. It is the name of the largest bus company in the area, and hundreds of lumbering vehicles bear the name of the Tory Defence Minister in large letters on their sides.

It is estimated that the Labour Party is to spend £500,000 fighting the Conservatives on beaches — from Blackpool to Benidorm — and senior Tories are gleeful at this helpful coincidence. "There was some alarm when the campaign was announced," says one, "until we all realised that in Marbella we had got there first, and for free. The buses run all night. Labour will never get away from them."

Inquiries to discover whether Señor Portillo, the bus company owner, is a close relation of Michael, the modish man at the

MoD, have proved inconclusive. "He is probably just a namesake," says a confidant, "but the buses do the Torre Molinos-Marbella run and are very well-known."

When I first wrote about it weeks ago, even I didn't realise that the Titan Arum plant at Kew Gardens would cause such a stink. It is now reaching the three corners of the globe. The story has particularly excited TV viewers in Japan, where



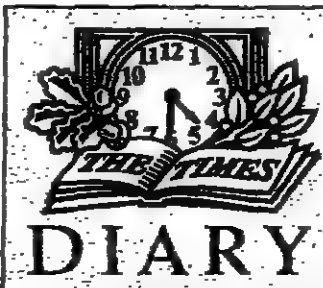
the Clive James spirit of undergoing unsavoury ordeals all flowers, and close to 30 million tuned in to see the monster on one channel alone. Pity those who laboured on that first nostril-scorching night to erect scaffolding for the film crew. They returned home reeking like grave robbers.

'Paul-ing

AFTER the nation failed to save them, the 19th-century marble sculptures of angels and cherubs from St Paul's Cathedral have been loaned to an American university for ten years. But in a move from the sublime to the souvenir, a range of replicas has been launched for the cathedral gift shop, to show tourists (many of them American) just what they are missing.

John Brandler, the dealer who purchased them from the cathedral, is responsible for the wheeze. "We've already got candles, mugs and brooches," he says proudly. "I am even prepared to consider fridge magnets."

No one is happier during the Proms season than Alexander Waugh, opera critic and son of Auberon. "I was first taken to the Proms as a boy," he says, "and I spent the day in Soho with a chum,



looking at all the sex shops. Even now, before the music starts, I still feel this thrill of anticipation."

Olympic club

THE ATLANTA Olympics closed yesterday, but one face which kept popping up throughout was that of Osman Streeter, the former chairman of the Savile Club. The convivial Streeter, who is half Turkish despite his very British manner, has been at the Olympics to campaign for the 2004 Games to be held in Istanbul.

He is working in league with Sir Tim Bell, Baroness Thatcher's favourite advertising man. Streeter, with his half-moon spectacles and dapper air, has been chatting up the likes of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the head of the Olympic

movement, and ex-King Constantine of Greece — whom he started with a greeting in fluent Greek.

Streeter threw a party for Turkey's star weightlifter, the pin-striped Naim "Pocket Hercules" Sulaymanoglu. Streeter now has Hercules in his car, pocket, and it would be no surprise soon to see the muscle-man in clubland.

Peter Falk, a.k.a. Columbo, the shabby, cigar-chomping detective, is finding that car really does imitate life. His daughter Catherine is



Falk: inspirational

about to graduate from a detective school in California, and plans to open her own agency in the autumn. The fledgling gumshoe is shamelessly intending to call her agency "Ms Columbo Inc."

Under canvas

AT THE START of Cowes Week, the Britannia Pub, one of only two in Cowes with a sea view, has been stripped of its major asset — a view of its namesake. This year, the council has erected a 200ft-long marquee along the Parade, blocking the punters' view of the Royal Yacht Britannia, which is moored opposite the pub.

The landlady, Sheila Hillman, who has threatened the council with an injunction, says: "This massive white tent is obstructing our view. We've lost hundreds of pounds and the glare is giving our bar staff headaches."

Slow Burns

GEORGE BURNS'S cigars are coming up for sale at Sotheby's in Los Angeles. The comedian was a passionate puffer, smoking between ten and 15 a day for much of his life. He used a cigar as his signature prop on stage, but connois-



Burns, the cigar addict

seurs will not be bidding for the finest Havana.

"Burns smoked a brand of cheap cigars called *El Producto*," says an expert from the cigar specialists Hunters & Frankau. "He once said if he was ever offered a \$2 cigar he would be obliged to sleep with it first."

Burns himself was never ashamed of his tastes. "I smoke a do-pensive Havana cigars are tightly packed. They go out on stage while I am doing my act. The *El Producto* stays lit," he explained once between puffs.

P.H.S



FOOLS' GOLD

Games are for players, not politicians and sportocrats

So farewell then Olympic Games, for another four years. Measured by league tables, Great Britain finished neck-and-neck with Burundi and Ecuador. But league tables are a foolish and unhelpful way to measure games. Politicians and bureaucrats should clear the track for a simpler vision of gold.

Britain's medal score was a quarter of Germany's, a third of France's, half of Italy's. The general secretary of the British Olympic Association said that "shock treatment" was needed before the Games in Sydney. The British sporting establishment has been wearing a strip of sackcloth since results began to go wrong for Britain's fastest and best. The failures have generated a self-serving official whinge that more money must be spent to get better results.

The gloom about underperformance is misplaced. The British medal count equals that in Helsinki in 1952, in Mexico City in 1968 and in Montreal in 1976. A medal graph running from 1952 to 1996 reveals no pattern, but a zigzag. A 16-year graph of the last four Olympics would indeed show a downward trend so steep as to be almost vertical: 37 medals in Los Angeles, 34 in Seoul, 20 in Barcelona and even fewer at Atlanta. But the Soviet Union boycotted Los Angeles, leaving us with a Barcelona total at the upper end of the postwar range and an exceptional year in South Korea. Atlanta is a disappointment, not a disaster.

Look further back, and watch the effects of the Games' development on medal tallies. In 1924, fewer than two dozen countries competed. The Soviet Union by then existed but did not take part: China did not exist in its present form, and sent no athletes. Britain's share of medals was bound to be greater than in this brave new world. Atlanta's Games welcomed competitors from 197 states. While armchair commentators of the industrialised world predict the demise of the nation state, new nation states keep popping up to belie their predictions. They seek prestige from sporting prowess.

At Atlanta Britain won one fewer gold but a few more medals than Kazakhstan. When that Central Asian country was part of the

Soviet Union, its athletes joined the united Soviet team, limited to three competitors in each event. Now Kazakhstan and every other new state born from the disintegration of the Soviet empire can enter its own quota of boxers, weightlifters, archers, runners, and beach volleyball players. With several sizeable populations, rejuvenated national pride and training cultures inherited from the communist era, these countries are likely to produce competitive athletes. And they do.

Any minister confronted with a plea for more public money in sport should ask hard-headed questions about the causes of the Atlanta disappointments. Nobody watching the British women's hockey team could believe that the one-goal margin in a penalty shoot-out which deprived them of the bronze medal could be put down to a shortage of money. The injuries that felled Liz McColgan and Sally Gunnell were not caused by cash shortages. Whatever made Linford Christie, one of Britain's richest athletes, false start twice, it cannot have been fear of having to sign on the dole after Atlanta. One enterprising commentator has adjusted the tables to take account of per capita GDP in every country. The top five states which did the most with the least were all communist or ex-communist states with low standards of living: China, Russia, Ethiopia, Cuba and Ukraine.

"It's not just a question of throwing money at it," the technical director of the BOA said in Atlanta, while Tony Blair described the Olympic campaign as "one big muddle". Both comments direct attention in a more useful direction, although neither is a prescription for the next four years. Does the system identify potential winners soon enough? Is business sponsorship sought with enough panache? Are any of France's ideas cost-efficient enough to be worth imitating? Olympic competitors make sacrifices for their art, some of them financial. But money is not the root of every problem nor the explanation for every success. The key to a better British medal performance in Sydney will be as much to do with management as with Mammon.

CIVES ROMANI SUMUS

Imperial pasts still form the British way of life

The Romans are never far away. Our series on Roman Britain that starts today explores their physical remains, from the unconquerable Highlands beyond the Antonine Wall to Chester, Colchester and Chichester. Their names as well as their stones recall Rome in England. In this dry summer when the grass is cut, the street plan of Verulamium has grown vividly back to sight after 15 centuries. And the excavations at Number One Poultry are turning up the imperial and domestic remains of Roman Londinium as well as the vivid scorchmarks of Boudicca's first Blitz of London.

Modern archaeological techniques such as aerial photography and metal detectors have recovered more of the Roman past in the last ten years than in the preceding century. And this gradual accumulation of evidence is rewriting and filling out the earliest British history. The *I066*. And *All That* travesty of savage Ancient Britons in woad subjugated by disciplined Romans has been superseded by a version of sophisticated tribes of traders, who generally welcomed the wealth and prestige of their Roman connection. But Sellar and Yeatman were not just joking: "The Roman Conquest was, however, a Good Thing." After the Romans left, it took the British 15 centuries to reinvent their central heating and hot baths, so suitable for the British climate.

Hadrian's Wall, the grandest Roman footprint left in Britain, is now seen more as a whitewashed terminus of Roman power than as a military barrier against the Caledonian nationalists. The writing on wooden tablets from Vindolanda describes a frontier melting-pot society, where mothers from warmer lands sent their sons parcels of socks and underpants, officers' wives gave supper, and Virgil was read and quoted. Epitaphs record the first Londoner whose name we know, *Classicianus Alpinus*, from Gaul. Tacitus also marked him as a

decent man who recommended a policy of appeasement rather than reprisals. Up on the wall we meet Regina, an early Essex girl, married to Barates, a Syrian merchant.

Each generation remakes the Romans in its own image. The Victorians took Rome as their model for running an Empire, with imperial laws, taxes and legions. This generation, having lost an Empire, is more interested in civilian and social history, the assimilation of natives into Roman ways, how continental flowers came to Fishbourne in travelling pots described by Pliny, and became naturalised here like the Romans.

Nobody speaks the new world language without echoing Rome, for two thirds of English is derived from Latin. This gives English two words for saying everything: *fraternity* or *brotherhood*, *feline* or *cat*. Much Latin has gone as native as *Classicianus*: *quorum*, *tandem*, *alibi*, etc. The alternatives of refined and plain, Romance polysyllables and Germanic nonsense, make English the language of poetry. And poets and scholars still wrote in Latin until the 19th century, while schoolchildren composed Latin verses and unsees well into this century. Even folk memory recalls Rome. As the locals called Caerleon King Arthur's Round Table, stories of Arthur's knights are echoes of the cataphracts, the heavy armoured cavalry of Rome going down at last before the Anglo-Saxon pirate hordes.

Rome is in English blood and stone, language and literature and way of life. They came and saw and stayed, and called the British affectionately the "little Brits". There was always local subsidiarity in such a proud island. The *byrrus Britannicus* is the British duffel coat with a hood for the winter. The Rudston Venus is broader in the beam than disappointingly skinny Italian models. But the Roman connection lies all around for those with eyes to see and ears to hear.

POOCH ON THE COUCH

Dog is man's best friend, but it deserves a dog's life

The contemporary dog apparently needs a shrink more than it needs walkies. As we report today, a pet therapy conference at Cambridge University has been told that by treating their dogs as little people, late 20th-century owners are turning them into neurotic basket cases. Prozac antidepressants are being prescribed for dogs that behave like hyperthyrroid rats. And animal behaviourists and counsellors now devise for pets games as significant and sophisticated as those that human resources managers play to test their junior executives. More people would send their dogs to one of these new pet psychiatrists, except that a well-trained dog knows that it is not allowed on the couch. But it is not surprising if the increasing urbanisation and isolation of society derange dogs as well as their owners. Modern watchdogs are kennel potatoes and do what they are told by watching television or the burglar at work instead of keeping noisy watch and barking the house down. New breeds such as doberman pinschers go around pinching dobermanns. A miniature poodle knows that most think of it as

highly strung, spoilt rotten and French. But give it a Mohawk clip, and nobody will ever call him Fifi again. A barking dog still never bites — while it is barking. Nevertheless, there is only one way to stop a dog barking in August. Shoot it in July.

In his letter to Wilhelm Fliess on July 7, 1898, Sigmund Freud reported a significant exchange in the origins of psychoanalysis. "Izzy, where are you riding to?" "Don't ask me, ask the horse." Domesticated animals act as projections of the human condition. For dogs were originally sentimentalised and humanised in the earliest novel, when Ulysses came home after 20 years, and was first recognised by his old dog, which wagged its tail and died. Since then dogs have been adored, anthropomorphised, bred to absurd shapes and conformations, loved and feared and spoilt as man's little pack barkers. The only way they are ever going to take first prize at a cat show is by taking the cat. But in this age of solitary anxiety, dogs need to go Freud as well as Woolf. They will, wagging their tails, as usual, and trusting their two-legged fools.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Clash between Howard and judges on Bulger sentences

From Flight Lieutenant J. D. B. Paines, RAF

Sir, Your leading article of July 31, commenting on this week's finding by the Court of Appeal that the Home Secretary had acted unjustly in setting a 15-year sentence for the killers of James Bulger, asserts as a central principle that public opinion should have a direct bearing on sentences awarded in criminal cases. I regard that assertion as entirely wrong.

The public have no detailed knowledge of the case. They have heard no arguments of mitigation and have only a broad overview of the facts from media coverage. They have little effective experience of sentencing. They are not, therefore, qualified to participate in the sentencing process.

The fact that public opinion is often inflamed by the tabloid press is a further reason for assigning the meting-out of justice, once a jury returns its verdict, to those who are both impartial and informed.

Concerns for the level of public support for the justice system, the foundation for the position taken by your leader, must be addressed by correct and consistent sentencing across the board, by leading public opinion and not by responding to it.

Yours faithfully,

J. D. B. PAINES,
34 Marlborough Road,
Amsbury, Wiltshire,
August 1.

From Lord Donaldson of Lynton

Sir, Your leader confuses two distinct issues. First, was the 15-year tariff sentence too high or too low? The Court of Appeal did not address this issue, holding, by a majority, only that in the case of very young offenders the Home Secretary had the power to determine such a sentence.

Spinal injuries

From Mr E. K. Faridany

Sir, In your issue of July 26 you report the ground-breaking research being carried out in Sweden which has restored some movement and function to paralysed animals.

This work, and that being carried out by research centres in a number of other countries, provides grounds for cautious but growing optimism on the part of paraplegics and tetraplegics (like myself) at the prospects for an end to the permanence of human spinal cord paralysis, especially for those with newer injuries. A doctor involved in the Swedish research stated on the *Today* programme, also on July 26, that he considered clinical trials on humans might begin "within two years".

As with all pioneer work, however, spinal research has its doubting Thomases. I could have wished for more enthusiasm than was shown by the spokespeople for the spinal injuries charities in your report. One can understand their need to err on the side of caution but it is frustrating to read, yet again, the suggestion that efforts on behalf of those with spinal injuries might better be directed towards "living for the here and now". It is, in my view, a monumental disservice to the efforts of research pioneers that such views can still hold sway, not least because of the adverse effect they could have on fundraising for international spinal research.

They are views which I feel owe more to political correctness (and a misplaced concern about offending disabled people's sense of worth) than to an objective desire simply to improve the human condition.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD FARIDANY,
Mount Pleasant Farm,
Rushlake Green,
Heathfield, East Sussex,
July 26.

Flight recorders

From Mr C. R. P. Stonor

Sir, If flight TWA 800 had fallen out of the sky minutes later into deep Atlantic waters it is unlikely that the flight and voice recorders would have been recovered. However, the immediate acquisition of data relevant to an aircraft disaster could be guaranteed at small additional cost using existing technology.

On-board flight and voice recorders could be equipped with battery-powered radio transmitters capable of transmitting to ground stations via an exclusive satellite-radio channel with global coverage.

The transmission of data, both current and recorded, would only be in extreme circumstances, such as loss of cabin pressure, structural failure, engine fires and turbine disintegration. Sensors could detect and pinpoint an explosion within the aircraft or an external explosion caused by a missile, and the aircraft's identity, current map reference and recorded data be transmitted within a few seconds.

Besides transmitting vital diagnostic data before it is lost or destroyed, such procedures would enable ground stations to give immediate warning to local search and rescue centres, including the aircraft's final position.

The need is paramount — does the vision exist to realise it?

Yours faithfully,
C. R. P. STONOR,
Chownes Mead,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex,
July 29.

Second, did he act fairly in exercising that power? The court held that he did not. Whether it is a judge or a politician who is passing sentence, it must surely be axiomatic that he should act fairly.

The court did not criticise the Home Secretary for taking account of public revulsion at the nature of the crime. Any sentencing judge would have done the same and the two judges concerned no doubt did so. The court did not criticise him for giving more weight to that particular factor than did those judges — different decision-makers can legitimately give different weight to different factors. What they criticised and criticised strongly was his taking account of organised attempts to influence his judgment.

To accept such action as a proper exercise of a judicial power cannot possibly improve confidence in the criminal justice system. On the contrary, it would represent a move in the direction of substituting the rule of the mob for that of the rule of law.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN F. DONALDSON
(Master of the Rolls, 1982-92),
As from: House of Lords,
August 1.

From Mr F. Ashe Lincoln, QC

Sir, Your editorial comment supporting the Home Secretary in the Bulger case will be widely accepted as right. There is, however, much confusion as to the effect of the various judicial views on the time to be served by the murderers.

At the trial the judge had no power to give less than "life" as fixed by Parliament. The recommendation that they should be released after eight years was no more than an indication to the Home Secretary of the judge's opinion, no doubt kindly meant but in no way binding on the minister whose

decision as to release governs.

The judiciary, for good reasons, do not like to have their sentencing powers fettered by Parliament: this is an important and moot constitutional question that has to be resolved; but at the moment the judges must accept the position and cannot curtail the discretion of the minister exercising the prerogative of the Crown.

Yours truly,

F. ASHE LINCOLN,
9 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
August 1.

From Mr Jerome Gardner

Sir, Your leader of would have been more convincing in its support of Michael Howard for his role in the Bulger case had it been able to indicate that he was less sensitive to public pressure in a case of equal notoriety where a very long tariff has now been completed — that of Myra Hindley.

These two cases may not have much in common, but taken together are a demonstration that "the roar of the mob" is indeed a most persuasive influence upon the Home Secretary.

Yours faithfully,
JEROME GARDNER,
Mortcombe, Cherry Bridge,
Barbrook, Lynton, Devon,
July 31.

From Sir John Willton

Sir, Solomon would have got a rare drubbing from the Lords of Appeal. His treatment of the plaintiffs in the case of the disputed baby fell "far below the standards that a court would adopt" (report, July 31).

Yours sincerely,

JOHN WILLTON,
Leggassick House, 69 Fore Street,
Plymouth St Maurice, Devon,
August 1.

How long, oh Lord, and how heavy?

From Mr Vivian Linacre

Sir, I wish you would not persist in mixing imperial and metric units in references to weights and measures. You are not obliged to convert from imperial to metric and presumably you will not do so consistently because of the obscurity or inelegance of many metric units. Given that you cannot adopt the metric system uniformly, why therefore can you not retain imperial notations throughout, rather than confuse readers with an odd assortment?

For example, your issue of July 20 includes an item about the proposed Stonehenge visitor centre "with 8,000 square metres of floor space" and a "4,000-acre park", and a story about a burglar in a "2 metre by 2 metre box" alongside another about somebody "5ft 11in" tall. Simon Jenkins sums it up in his article about the Olympic Games, "Wake me for the mile". In

which he records that event pre-eminence, "even debased as the 1500 metres".

Most absurd is the incongruity within Frances Bissell's recipes in the *Magazine*, which combine rule-of-thumb measures such as "1 tsp" and "good pinch" with the precision of "500g" and "150ml". What practical use is 1g or 1ml of anything?

Deficiencies in some children's education are easily remedied and afford no greater excuse for metric muddle — far less a metric monopoly — than do EU directives. So please stick to our traditional, rational weights and measures.

Yours etc,

V. T. LINACRE
(Chairman),
British Weights and
Measures Association,
9/5 New Bell's Court, Edinburgh 6,
July 25.

Scots oil, English debt

From Mr A. A. Bolland

Sir, If Mr Tim Haines's letter (July 29) was not so serious, it would be comical.

The "English taxpayer" does not and never has had cause to "subsidise" Scotland.

Equally, as the 1992 general election more than 75 per cent of the voters voted for a party advocating a Scottish parliament, whilst the majority voted for it in the referendum.

For the record, Scotland has 8.8 per cent of the UK population. On Scottish Office figures it carried 9.3 per cent of the UK tax burden in 1993-94, including 80 per cent of North Sea revenues; the 1995-96 figures were 9.8 per cent and 90 per cent respectively. On the 1993-94 figures alone, this equates to a difference of £1.1 billion — i.e. £500 per taxpayer per year or £9.62 per Scottish taxpayer per week.

It is the Scots who are subsidising the English, Mr Haines.

Yours sincerely,
A. A. BOLLAND,
15a Middleton Road,
Middleton,
Nr Morecambe, Lancashire,
July 29.

Maddened by bells

From Mrs Valerie Twiss

Sir, Church bells are an anachronism ("Villager cuts down noise levels by taking axe to the church bells", July 29). In a society with millions of clocks we don't need a bell to tell us it's time to go to church. Churches display great arrogance in assuming the right to announce their services in this way. What if every sect, club, society and entertainment provider chimed for half an hour prior to an event?

Churchgoers are a minority group. Their bell-ringing stresses those who seek peace in a noisy world.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE TWISS,
Kingsdene, Church End,
Drayton, Passlow, Buckinghamshire,
July 30.

From Mr Robin Dyke

Sir, How pleasant it must be to live near a village green, a golf club, or open countryside. How convenient it must be to live near a church, school, shopping centre, motorway, railway or airport.

It therefore makes me wonder if those who complain about the unexpected arrival of cricket balls, golf balls or housing developments, the noise of bells or children, or the pollution of traffic, trains or aircraft have thought of moving. Or is it every neighbour's right to make newsworthy protests in their own self-interest?

The traditional art of bell-ringing can only be sustained with a certain amount of training and practice. Visiting other churches broadens the experience of the ringers, as does the occasional peal.

Taking an axe to a 15th-century church door and the bell ropes is not a solution that society should accept.

Yours tolerantly,
ROBIN DYKE,
Gore House,
Warborough, Oxfordshire,
July 30.

Sport letters, page 30

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Disputed changes at the Prado

From Professor Sir John Elliott

Sir, I cannot agree with Sir Norman Foster's reported opposition to the proposed removal of Madrid's Army Museum (the Museo del Ejército) in order to provide additional space for the Prado ("Foster in Madrid museum dispute", August 2).

The character of the Prado is unique, and nobody wants to see it replaced by a mega-museum; but large numbers of its paintings, including many of exceptionally high quality, are at present inaccessible to the public. The additional space afforded by the Army Museum would be admirably suited to their display.

The Army Museum, a 19th-century creation, is housed close to the Palace of the Buen Retiro — a pleasure-palace built for Philip IV in the 1630s and largely destroyed during the Napoleonic wars. Its principal room, the centrepiece of the original palace, is a great ceremonial hall known as the Hall of Realms. It is comparable in importance to the Whitehall Banqueting House.

The decorative scheme of the hall was designed to proclaim the military triumphs of Philip's reign and the glories of the dynasty. The paintings commissioned for it, including five royal portraits by Velázquez and his *The Surrender of Breda*, are currently dispersed through the Prado. Their return to their original setting and the hall's long overdue restoration to something approaching its original grandeur would represent a splendid addition to the attractions of Madrid.

In addition, the transfer of the Army Museum to the famous Alcázar of Toledo — an entirely appropriate site, where the museum's contents can be far more effectively displayed — will provide hanging space for many of the paintings originally acquired for the Retiro and now in storage in the Prado.

Whatever may be thought of the inclusion of the cloisters of San Jerónimo in the proposed extension of the Prado, the transfer of the Army Museum and the restoration of the Hall of Realms are necessary and desirable. Both should go ahead.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ELLIOTT
(Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford),
History Faculty Library,
Broad Street, Oxford,
August 2.

Sauce for goose

From Dr Justin Seabrook

Sir, Mr Keith Waller (letter, August 3) draws a confused political parallel between sport and education. Achievement in both fields is dependent primarily on providing opportunity for all rather than concentration of resources on an "elite".

The selling-off of school playing fields and neglect of community sports facilities has had a greater effect on the nation's medal yield (not to mention its health) than can possibly be recovered by John Major's proposed academy of sport (report, July 25). Selection is now from too small a population of athletes.

Likewise, £200 million spent on the Assisted Places Scheme will have a smaller effect on the mean educational attainment level than the same sum expended on seriously underfunded state schools.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN SEABROOK,
Flat 2, 4 Victoria Road, Northampton,
August 3.

Future Olympics

From Mrs Mary Smith

Sir, With Atlantamania coming to an end, dare I suggest that after the millennium, the Olympic Games should be staged permanently in Greece? Their origin is almost completely lost in the insatiable desire for host countries to out-do one another in lavish style and unacceptably extravagance.

Yours sincerely,
MARY SMITH,
54 Eastern Road, Fortis Green, N2,
August 4.

From Dr H. K. Moller

Sir, Having watched basketball and volleyball on television I wonder if there should not be an Olympic event for those of less than average height. Would limbo dancing be suitable?

Yours faithfully,
HANS MOLLER,
215 Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent,
July 24.

Power of the press

From Mr Toby Beresford

Sir, Brian MacArthur is mistaken if he believes the future of newspapers lurks in a laptop (Paper Round, July 31). If my day is spent staring at a computer screen the last way I want to relax is by surfing the Internet, even as one of his "under-30s who find it easy".

After work yesterday I lounged in the garden, basked in the afternoon sun and read *The Times*. When finished, I used it in a way no computer will ever be able to match: for shading my head as I dozed off...

Yours somnambulant,
TOBY BERESFORD,
7 The Walled Garden,
Wargrave, Berkshire,
August 1.

OBITUARIES

MERVYN COWIE

Mervyn Cowie, CBE, founder and former director of the Royal National Parks of Kenya, died on July 19 aged 87. He was born on April 13, 1909.

MERVYN COWIE campaigned for and created Kenya's National Parks, then ran them for 20 years to help save the country's wildlife from extinction. He fought for funds to build roads and safari lodges and to train game wardens. He broadcast and lectured throughout the world as one of the most celebrated conservationists of his time. Not only did he succeed in his endeavour, but he helped Kenya's tourist trade to rival coffee as the biggest contributor to its balance of payments.

Among those who came to visit his famous parks were the young Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip on the eve of her accession to the throne. The film *Where No Vulture Flies*, starring Anthony Steel, was inspired by Kenya's conservation story and carried Cowie's name among the credits. But then in 1966 at the height of his powers, three years after Kenya had been granted independence, the man who had made it all happen was abruptly dismissed. His job, he was told, was being "Africanised" — with a local man taking over. He left with one month's pay and without a pension, just a letter from President Kenyatta expressing his thanks.

His disappointment was the more acute because Kenya was his home. Born Mervyn Hugh Cowie in Nairobi, he was the son of a former chief magistrate of South Africa who had been so impressed by Kenya on a visit that he had gone to live there with his family.

Young Mervyn was educated in this country at Brighton College, from where he went to read law at Brasenose College, Oxford. But he left without a degree, sailing back to Kenya when his father became gravely ill, the result of being wounded in the Boer War.

Cowie later returned to Britain, qualified as a chartered accountant, then practised in Nairobi in the 1930s. In his spare time he hunted game, as did everyone else, and once reputedly killed six lions with eight shots. He was growing concerned, however, by the rate at which the country's wildlife was being lost. East Africa was lagging behind other regions over conservation. Although Kenya had game reserves in which shooting was banned, it needed more rigorous monitoring



national parks. As part of Cowie's campaign, he "befriended" a pride of seven lions and five leopards which he personally fed at the same place in the bush, escorting influential visitors to the spot in order to win them over to his cause. The one-time Governor Sir Robert Brooke-Popham was a powerful convert.

His first breakthrough was the creation of a Game Policy Committee in the late 1930s. But then came the Second World War, during which Cowie, an officer in the King's African Rifles Reserve in the 1930s, served with the Kenya Regiment in Abyssinia, the Middle East and Madagascar. Demobilised as a Lieutenant-Colonel (he was known as "Colonel Cowie" at one time) he returned to his private battle in 1945 and one year later saw the realisation of his dream with the creation of the Nairobi National Park. Others swiftly followed.

He had learnt to fly in his teens, but had not done so since he saw his elder brother killed in front of him when his light aircraft crashed. The need now to

patrol his growing empire persuaded him, however, to take to the air again. In 1951 he joined Kenya's Legislative Council and served on it for nine years, providing himself with a powerful platform to fight for resources. He was made Director of Manpower during the Mau Mau emergency, 1953-56, organising the military call-up of Europeans.

One woman was so incensed when her husband was called that she threw her shoes at Cowie, who promptly claimed danger money from the Government. An official stiffly replied, turning him down. After losing his job in 1966 the disgraced Cowie performed a sequence of jobs before being appointed in 1972 financial director of the African Medical and Research Foundation, which ran the Flying Doctor Service.

On retiring from that seven years later, he migrated briefly to Britain but soon returned to Nairobi feeling homesick. He settled here permanently, however, some seven years ago, concerned by the growing insecurity in Kenya.

Appointed CBE in 1960, he was showered with honours by other countries and served on various international wildlife bodies. He once presented a series of 12 natural history programmes on BBC Television. His first book *Fly Vulture*, a more accurate if less colourful account of his campaign than had been portrayed in the film, appeared in 1961. This was followed by *I Walk With Lions*, published in America in 1964, and by *African Lion* one year later.

Although Cowie loved all animals, even the giraffes who regularly ate his roses in Nairobi, his favourite remained the lion. He disapproved, however, of Joy Adamson's attempts to tame them. He once refused her permission to release some lion cubs in his national parks, whereupon she flung herself on his office floor in a tantrum.

A lean, erect man with a trim military moustache, Cowie was known for his old-fashioned courtesy and charm. His military bearing was relieved by the twinkle in his eye and by a well-developed sense of the ridiculous.

His first wife Molly, a ballet dancer who ran her own ballet school in Nairobi, died in 1956. He is survived by his second wife Valori, who was once his secretary, and by five children — two sons and a daughter by his first marriage and a further son and daughter by his second.

IVAN LALIC

Ivan Lalic, poet, died on July 27 aged 65. He was born in Belgrade on June 8, 1931.

IVAN LALIC was a poet whose verses described all that was best in the former Yugoslavia. The finest Serbian and Croatian cultural traditions blended in him, and enriched his writing.

As a European modernist, he felt free to pick and choose his themes from all available traditions. He had much in common with other Mediterranean writers, like the Greek poet George Seferis, with whom he shared a passion for the sea. Indeed, Lalic once said that he considered himself more Mediterranean than Serbian or even Yugoslav — though that may have been his own typically understated response to the narrowing of perspectives which he saw going on around him during the civil war.

In an early poem he had written, "Places we love exist only through us... Places we love we can never leave". For Lalic, most of these deeply loved "places" were spiritual zones that were recognisably Yugoslav — whether drawn from the Byzantine Empire or Renaissance Dubrovnik, from Serbia or Croatia. He was steeped in all the literatures of the different local regions.

He was born into a cultured Serbian family. His father Vlado was a journalist and his maternal grandfather Isidor Bajic was a composer. His sensibility was shaped by the bloody experiences of war as a boy: "The theme of death in my poetry, or destruction, is very deeply rooted in this war experience." A poem recently published in English, in a collection entitled *A Rusty Needle*, confronted his sense of loss over the death of a group of his childhood friends in an air raid: "But I remained, to grow on/With their gaze in the shape of my neck, like a rusty needle just under the skin, but also, slowly, /To come to love the night and her soft stars again."

In 1946 he moved to the



Croatian capital. At school there, in the same class, he met Branka, a talented musician who later became his wife. He entered the Zagreb law faculty in 1949, and in his graduation year, 1953, published his first book, *Biseri deca* (Once a boy). After graduation he joined Radio Zagreb and became an editor. In 1961 he moved back to Belgrade to become general secretary of the Yugoslav Writers' Union. In 1979 he went to Nolit publishing house, where he worked as an editor until retirement in 1993.

Although the move back to Belgrade in 1961 was permanent, each summer was spent with his wife and two sons, at his second family home in the town of Rovinj on the Istrian coast. Then in 1989 disaster struck. His first son Vlado was drowned in a sudden squall on an Adriatic yachting trip, bravely sacrificing himself to save his two companions. Lalic confronted this tragedy in later poems, insisting, despite his loss, on the poet's inborn duty to continue assenting. Then war and the collapse of the Yugoslav Federation put a complete stop to his Adriatic summers.

Between 1955 and 1992, he published 16 books, including two editions of selected poems. He received numerous Yugoslav awards, and was widely translated into other languages. In English alone, seven volumes have appeared.

and he was fortunate to have two able translators into the English language, Francis R. Jones and the American Charles Simic. Jones's fourth selection, *A Rusty Needle*, has recently been published by Anvil Press.

Lalic was a polyglot, with fluent English, French and German, and excellent Russian and Italian. His knowledge of the major world literatures was thorough and deep. His translations from English included editions of Whitman, T.S. Eliot, David Gascoyne, and Marlowe's *Tambraine*. He admired both Britain and the British sense of humour. On his first visit to Cambridge, for the 1979 Poetry Festival, he wrote several authentically bawdy limericks.

Lalic brooded long over his subjects, and the importance of memory and of recollection was essential to his work. But when it came to composition, he worked quickly and effortlessly, not wishing to mar or overload his texts with corrections. To him the act of composition was an epiphany. As an Orthodox Serb, it was important to him to compose in Cyrillic. He took quiet pride in the neat, firm writing in his manuscript books, which to him were records of these Orphic dictations from his inner voices.

Perhaps Lalic's most enduring gift is that these epiphanies are experienced directly by the reader, in sudden and unexpectedly radiant images. These frequent moments caught in the poem are by no means "accidental" flashes of technical brilliance, but spontaneous blossomings of a coherent and informed vision, steadily rooted in history. He never flinched from the poet's task, but rejoiced in his work: "Terrible is the effort to recognise love/in the waning, and to read the sign/in the nettle between two syllables of stone... our task/Is to remember, to deliver blows/The task of the peach is to blossom."

He leaves his widow and his surviving son.

HUGH CRONYN

Hugh Cronyn, GM, artist, died on July 25 aged 91. He was born on April 30, 1905.

DURING his wartime service with the RNR, Hugh Cronyn was one of the first naval officers to be awarded the George Medal. Volunteering for the bomb disposal service in 1940 he was posted to a Bristol dockyard and it was there, after an air raid, that he bravely defused a German bomb in the hold of the tanker *Chesapeake* which was carrying a cargo of high octane petrol.

After ensuring that as much petrol as possible had been unloaded from the tanker, Cronyn went down alone into the hold, wearing a wooden helmet attached to an airline to protect himself from noxious fumes. He then, as he later recalled in his memoirs, did his "little 40-minute covey" on each of the two fuses the bomb contained, and made it safe. For this singular act of courage, he was awarded the newly instituted George Medal.

But in civilian life, Cronyn was a talented artist who chose landscape as his principal subject. Often experimental in his technique — sometimes at the expense of commercial success — he would constantly rethink and adapt his methods of representation of the landscapes of East Anglia, the Thames, France and his native Canada. Even in old age, as blindness encroached, his work was characterised by a vibrancy and luminosity. And though his wartime experiences had inevitably left their mental scars, his painting seemed to demonstrate a counterbalancing



belief in the richness and beauty of human experience. A Canadian, Hugh Verchoye Cronyn was born in Vancouver and educated at Ridley College. After an unhappy period working for the Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Company in Toronto, he decided to turn his back on the world of commerce in 1928 and started to study instead with Franz Johnston, a founder member of the Canadian school of landscape painters known as the Group of Seven.

In 1929 he enrolled for courses in the Art Students League in New York, and in 1930 moved on to the American School of Fine Arts at Fontainebleau. He spent the next four years in Paris, which he later came to regard as his "University", studying principally with the Cubist painter André Lhote before coming to London, where he made a precarious living among a circle of talented young artists based along the Thames at Hammersmith. These includ-



Hugh Cronyn, left, and *Winter Lilies*, 1963

ed Gertrude Hermes, Raymond Coxon and Edna Ginesi. At this time, he also became a close friend of A.P. Herbert and his family. With the outbreak of war in 1939, having had some experience of sailing, he joined the Thames River Emergency Service, and subsequently the RNR, receiving his commission in 1940. During training at HMS King Alfred, he volunteered for the bomb disposal service.

On leaving the Navy in 1946, Cronyn was determined to pursue his vocation as a painter. After a brief period as director of art at the Architectural Association in London, he taught painting from 1949 to 1969 at the Colchester School of Art, numbering among his many friends Cedric Morris and John Nash. From East Anglia, he returned to his earlier stamping grounds in London, where he acquired a studio alongside other artists living by the Thames, among whom were his old friends Julian Trevelyan and Mary Fedden. At this time he also acquired a house in the South West of France, where he spent most of the summer months each year painting, and becoming in the process something of a local celebrity.

As his work became increasingly well known, he exhibited at the Royal Academy, was shown frequently in East Anglia, and later in France, and at diverse locations in and around London. In 1972 he had major exhibitions at Canada House and The Minories, Colchester.

With typical courage, Cronyn continued to paint throughout the 1980s despite deteriorating eyesight. His work was shown in Toronto at Nancy Poole's studio in 1982, at the Phoenix Gallery, Levensham, in 1985, and again in a retrospective exhibition in 1990. Paintings by him now form part of public and private collections in Canada, France, Sweden, Britain and America. In 1989 he published a short memoir of his Navy years entitled *Steady As You Go: A Canadian At Sea*.

Hugh Cronyn leaves his wife Jean, whom he married in 1942, and two daughters.

HIS HONOUR JOHN WILLIS

John Willis, county court and circuit judge, 1965-80, died on July 17 aged 90. He was born on July 3, 1906.

JOHN WILLIS touched the hearts of the nation more than thirty years ago when he fell for the barmaid of his local pub. The press flocked to the subsequent wedding in 1964 at Leeds Register Office, where Willis, then the Recorder of Huddersfield, married Mrs Terena ("Tina") Steel, 30 years his junior. For months she had served him his lunchtime drink and sandwiches at the bar where she worked in Leeds.

One newspaper carried a cartoon which showed a judge banging the table with his gavel and calling "True gentlemen please!" To cries of "Good Luck" from the crowds, the couple left for their three-week honeymoon in his car, with Mrs Steel's daughter by a previous marriage in the back seat. Willis's own first marriage had been dissolved 18 years previously.

They made the national newspapers twice more: first, when his house was burgled during their honeymoon, and again when their baby was born in the following year. But then, as in all the best moments of his life, he lived happily ever after.

John Brooke Willis was the son of a solicitor in Rotherham. He followed his elder brother to Bedford Modern School, where he won a scholarship, played rugby and also rowed, then went up to Sheffield University to read law. He carved for himself a niche in the university's history by becoming the first law student to win first-class honours.

Willis then joined his father's Rotherham law firm before switching to read for the Bar. Called by the Inner Temple in 1938, he practised briefly in London before joining the North Eastern Circuit with chambers in Leeds. He was to become one of the circuit's most respected figures.

Commissioned into the RAF Volunteer Reserve in the Second World War, Willis served in Aden and other parts of the Middle East, reaching the



rank of squadron leader before being demobilised in 1945. He then returned to Leeds and the break-up of his first marriage shortly afterwards. Willis was made Recorder of his home town of Rotherham in 1951, then of the rather larger Huddersfield eight years later. In 1963 he also became chairman of the local Medical Appeals Tribunal, hearing cases of industrial injuries and National Insurance, a post which he held for 12 years.

He served as deputy chairman of the West Riding Quar-

ter Session, 1958-71, and was made a county court judge in 1965, based in Derby, becoming a circuit judge after the 1972 reorganisation of the judicial system.

He retired in 1980 aged 74, but continued to help out for a few more years by taking cases from time to time before finally settling down to his garden and his books. A tall, gentle, modest man, Willis made his reputation not by any flamboyant advocacy in court but through his profound knowledge of the law and his shrewd judgment. No one was better, it was said, at distinguishing the genuine hard-luck cases standing before him from those who were the "workers of inequity". But his style was quiet and succinct.

Absorbed by the North Eastern Circuit, he was an expert in its history and geography. For many years he organised the North East's Bar Mess — which provides for barristers on circuit away from home. While chairman of the Medical Appeals Tribunal, he also held regular dinners for medical consultants within the area, which became known as the "Circles of Willis" — a play on the anatomical term for part of the brain. He was up to his authority on fine wine, although he preferred quality to quantity and his own personal consumption was modest.

Willis died from cancer after also suffering from Parkinson's disease for several years. He is survived by his wife Tina and by four children — a son and daughter from his first marriage and two daughters from his second, including a stepdaughter whom he brought up as his own.

Church news

Dean of Gloucester

The Rev Canon Nick Bury, Vicar of St Peter-in-Thames and Rural Dean of Thanet, diocese of Canterbury, is to be Dean of Gloucester, succeeding the Very Rev Kenneth Jennings, who retires in November.

Other appointments

The Rev Ian Black, Curate, Maidstone, All Saints' w St Philip and St Stephen, Tonbridge, is to be Priest-in-charge, The Bretons w Davington and Care w Luddendenham (Canterbury).

The Rev Martin Clarke, Priest-in-charge, Walsham-le-Willows and Fittingham w Westhorpe, to be also Priest-in-charge, Badwell Ash (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Catherine Dakin, Deacon (NSM), united benefice of Heydon, Great Chishill, Little Chishill, Christall, Elmford, Lode and Snettisham, to be Deacon (NSM), united benefice of Great and Little Maplestead w Gillingthorpe (Chelmsford).

The Rev Geoffrey Dainton, Vicar, Framfield; now also Rural Dean of Oxford (Chichester).

Canon Ronald Dies, retiring as Rector of Freemantle (Winchester) on August 31; to be a Canon Emeritus of Winchester Cathedral.

The Rev Struan Dunn, Team Rector, South Gillingham; to be Rector, Mesopham w Nurstead (Dorchester).

The Rev David Evans, Rector, St Michael's, Cornhill (London); to be Chaplain, St Andrew's, Pau, France (Europe).

The Rev Alan Fishwick, Team Vicar, Acxington Team Ministry; to be Vicar, St Aidan, Mill Hill, Blackburn.

The Rev Graeme Giles, Assistant Curate, St Michael, Paulsgrove (Portsmouth); to be Vicar, St Peter le Port, Friern Barnet (London). The Rev Michael Gudgeon, Bishop's Chaplain (Europe); to be also a Canon of Gibraltar Cathedral. The Rev Michael Halliwell, who recently retired as Rector, St

Breda; w St Aubin; to be Honorary Assistant Curate, Grouville, Jersey for two years. He will continue to serve as a Vice-Dean during this time.

The Rev Nigel Hartley, Priest-in-charge, Great Finborough w Onehouse, Harleston, Budhall and Shilland; to be also Acting Rural Dean of Stowmarket (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Jane Hayward, Curate, benefice and parish of St Mary Redcliffe w Temple, Bristol and St John the Baptist, Bedminster; to be Vicar, St Anne w St Mark and St Thomas, Eastville (Bristol).

The Rev Thomas Higgs, Vicar, Yaxley; to be also Priest-in-charge, Holme w Conington (Ely).

The Rev Paul Holland, Assistant Chaplain, St Helier Hospital; to be Senior Curate, St John the Baptist, Crofton (Southwark).

The Rev Clive Jenkins, Priest-in-charge, Amberley w North Stoke and Parham, Wigginton and Greattham and Diocesan Youth Officer (West Sussex); to be Vicar, Southbourne w West Thorney (Chichester).

The Rev Barry Keeton, Team Rector, Lewes (Chichester); to be Rector, St John the Baptist, Fleet Street, Coventry.

The Rev David Kightly, Priest-in-charge, Chippenham, Swindon and Islstead, and Rural Dean of Fordham; to be Priest-in-charge, Felwell w Melbourn and Rural Dean of Felwell (Ely).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Dr Dennis Brown, Vicar, Wolford w Burnington; Rector, Cherington w Stourton; Rector, Barcheston (Coventry); retired July 31.

The Rev Wilkie Denford, Rector, Pulborough (Chichester); to retire August 31.

Canon Daniel O'Connor, Residentiary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral and Bishop's Adviser on Interfaith Issues; to retire August 31 and be appointed a Canon Emeritus.

The Rev Canon Ron Pail, Rector, Southbourne (Chichester); retired July 31.

THE FAMINE IN RUSSIA. STARVING HOSTS ON THE MOVE.

(By Our Special Correspondent)

Russia was the granary of Europe, and Russia is now starving. The facts in regard to the famine may be briefly summarized: In the provinces of Saratov, Samara, and Simbirsk, over a large area of the Don territory, and in the rich provinces to the east of the Volga up to the Urals there has been a complete failure of the harvest owing to the drought, and in the provinces bordering on these there is a partial failure. Over most of the rest of Russia the harvest is considerably below the average. The progressive peasantry of Saratov and the more backward Russian, Tatar, and Bashkir peasantry to the east of the Volga are starving. There is a tragic monotony in the accounts of their sufferings. With the fields burnt dry and showing only here and there a few stalks of corn, the wretched men and women and children are making desperate attempts to support life like the beasts of the field, eating grass, dry leaves, and weeds, making cakes of scum flour, eating the bones of animals ground to a powder, devouring at times even offal. Panic seizes them, and they flee in hundreds from their villages, nailing up their doors, and sometimes in a fit of wild despair

ON THIS DAY

August 5, 1921

Lenin's "New Economic Policy", restoring private trade, came too late to deal with the famine caused by a drought which had wiped out the harvest. Eighteen million people were starving and Russia appealed to the "international proletarian" for relief.

setting their deserted dwellings on fire. Whither to flee they know not. The Cossacks from the northern districts of the Don are snowed down towards the Kuban, famous for its wealth of corn, but for months past disorganized by Cossack revolts. All along the banks of the Volga great companies of starving men, women and children wait for days and days for some steamer to carry them away from the desolation. And they sicken and die while they wait... Then in the midst of the devastating drought cholera has appeared, has spread from the mouth of the Volga all through the famine area, and is being carried

far and wide by the wandering hosts of starving peasantry. Dr Semashko, the People's Commissary for Health, wrote in the *Izvestia* early last month: "A great epidemic of cholera has broken out. Rostov, the Volga region, Voronezh, and Orel are already afflicted with it; it is breaking out in different centres in widely separated parts of the Republic. The sanitary condition of the country is most alarming. The filth in the towns is such that even during the drought people who have gulches have had to wear them in the streets. The water-pipes and sewers have broken down. Worst of all, the migration of the population en masse is carrying the infection from one centre to another. The starving population of the Volga is moving southward on the way... There is probably corn enough in Russia now, if it could be properly distributed, to keep alive the starving millions; but with the hopeless disorganization, the lack of transport, the revolts in the Ukraine and Siberia, and the paralysis of economic initiative through Soviet misrule, it is impossible to expect that the disaster will be checked. The big towns themselves are threatened with starvation, and rations are dwindling daily."

سنة من الرياضة

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1996

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TODAY

IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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Brian Glanville on the opening shots of a new season
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 5 1996

BRITAIN'S ATHLETES SHORT OF A RETURN TO THE GOLD STANDARD



Offering silver linings to an often disappointing Games for Britain, Black, left, and Backley at least enjoyed tangible reward for their successes in the 400 metres and javelin, even if victory eluded them both

Britain's hopes of bronze set back

FROM CRAIG LORD

NICK GILLINGHAM, the British swimmer who finished fourth in the 200 metres breaststroke, put celebrations of an unexpected bronze medal on hold last night after the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld an appeal against the disqualification of two Russians who tested positive for a banned stimulant.

Andrei Kornecov, in the 200 metres breaststroke, and Zafar Guliyov, in the 48kg class in Greco-Roman wrestling, both won bronze medals before it was discovered they had taken Broomantan, a psychostimulant used by Russian cosmonauts that reduces feelings of fatigue and is also thought to be used as a masking agent for other substances.

After the positive test, Fina, the international governing body for swimming, realigned the result and announced that Gillingham would be awarded the bronze.

Jean-Filipe Rochat, who presided over the six-day appeal, said that the matter was now in the hands of the international governing bodies. Fina could stick with its earlier decision but if it does not, Gillingham, 29 and now retired from the sport, said yesterday he will himself appeal to the court.

Sport counts the cost

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTA

FOR the third time in six Olympic Games, the Great Britain athletics team is returning home without a gold medal. In the past 30 years, only nine British athletes have stood on the top step of the Olympic podium and, as the number of nations participating increases and as the British Athletic Federation (BAF) struggles for funding to develop the sport while other national governing bodies enjoy government backing, the probability is that little will

change unless investment is forthcoming. Four silver medals and two bronze represent a fair Olympics, given the resources available. How more cheerful the mood might be had either Steve Backley, in the javelin, or the British men's 4x400 metres relay team been just one per cent or so better here on Saturday night. How less critical the media might have been of the overall team performance had, say, Jonathan Edwards not fouled on his big fifth and sixth-round efforts in the triple jump, where his distances from the start of his hop to landing

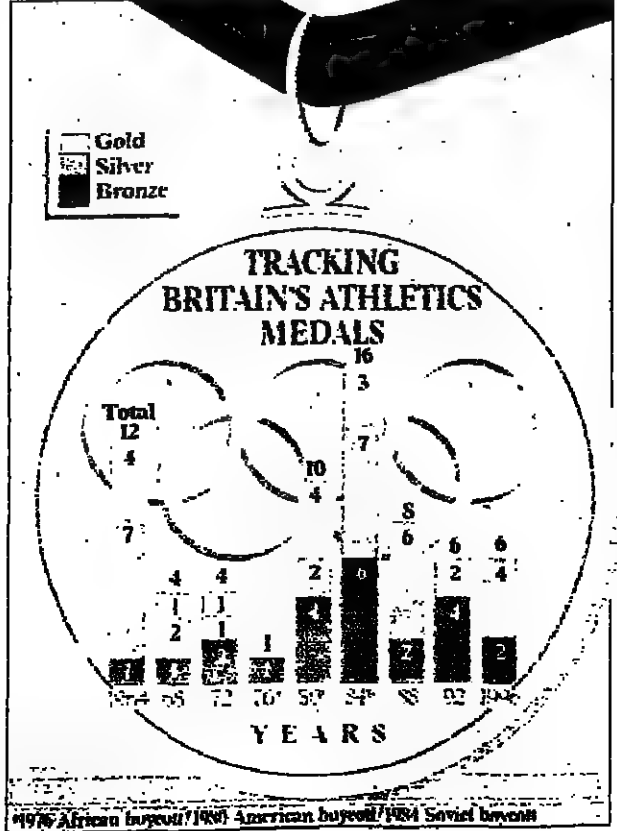
appeared further than the winning jump. So little difference between no gold medals and three. These Olympics have illustrated as well as any championship in recent years how thin is the line between success and failure. Argument, even with the benefit of the photograph, over whether Gail Devers or Merlene Ottey had crossed the line first in the women's 100 metres; the first five in the men's hammer separated by less than one and a half metres; the first three teams in the women's 4x400 metres relay covered by less than a quarter of a second. These are but three examples.

For Britain, the story is of frustrating near-misses, except in the case of Denise Lewis, who took the heptathlon bronze medal by the equivalent of less than half a second in the 800 metres, the last of her seven events over two days, and Roger Black, pleased to win the race-within-a-race to follow Michael Johnson over the line in the 400 metres. Backley, Britain's most consistently successful international championship performer since the last Olympics, was within a metre of an extraordinary success: only two months ago, he was on crutches after an operation on a ruptured Achilles tendon. This was only Backley's third competition since his return. His was a race against time, so tight that he considered himself fortunate that his event was on the last day of the stadium track programme. The extra week of preparation worked in his favour, but he will wonder whether the 72 centimetres that separated him from the gold medal might have been bridged had he been able to train without interruption.



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the field of international sport unless there are radical changes. "We have a hotch-potch of small, mainly inadequate, indoor arenas and one permanent indoor track in Glasgow. To survive the British winter, athletes need purpose-built, multi-sport indoor areas and arenas. Direct funding of current and potential athletes, coaches and their support services needs to be addressed. The BAF annual budget for coaching and development is equivalent to the amount a second division football manager might spend on a third-rate striker." As he did at the world championships last year, Arnold called for funding from the National Lottery. Linford Christie, whose last international championship this was, said he would not want to work in the development of British athletics because, to his mind, it is not professional enough. Improved professionalism requires better funding. France and Germany are government-backed. Each won three gold medals. The performances of the younger members of the British team here are encouraging for the next Olympics: Lewis, Steve Smith, Angela Thorpe, Iwan Thomas, Paula Radcliffe, Ian Mackie. This month in Sydney, where the 2000 Olympics will take place, Britain's best teenage athletes will compete in the world junior championships. The best are on the line between success and failure four years hence. As Arnold said: "If investment is not made quickly, we shall be another two years down the road to Sydney 2000." Which side of the line today's teenagers end up depends on how much help they are given now.



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OLYMPIC GAMES: BACKLEY AND 4 X 400 RELAY SQUAD KEEP BRITAIN AMONG MEDALS AS ATHLETICS PROGRAMME DRAWS TO CLOSE

Black unable to take advantage of golden chance

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

FOR the younger members in the Great Britain 4 x 400 metres relay team, those whose finest moments are to come hopefully, taking silver medals in the final track race of the Olympic Games on Saturday brought smiles all round. For Roger Black, smiling was not quite so easy.

This was his last chance, probably, of an Olympic gold medal. Although he has said he will continue to compete for as long as his body will permit, he will be 34 come Sydney in 2000. Arriving here, he had gold medals from every championship except the Olympics.

Black took the 400 metres individual silver on the fourth day here. The crowning glory would have been gold in the relay, the final affirmation of a magnificent career. When the United States announced on Friday that Michael Johnson, the athlete of the Games, had withdrawn through injury, the Great Britain quartet suddenly had a chance of the ultimate prize.

Black took the young braves into his room. Iwan Thomas, 22, and not even an athlete five years ago, Jamie Baulch, 23, who at the time of the last Games was preparing to help Britain to win sprint relay gold at the junior world championships; Mark Richardson, 24, fifth in the 1995 world championships but cast out of a probable individual place here when a victim of food poisoning.

"I sat them down and gave them a bit of a history lesson," Black said. "I had to tell them what a great chance we had." Britain had not won an Olympic relay since 1936, when Freddie Wolff, Godfrey Ramping, Bill Roberts and Godfrey Brown defeated the United States in the 4 x 400 metres.

At the 1991 world championships in Tokyo, Britain upset the Americans again, and it was their time then, 2min 57.53sec, which Thomas, Baulch, Richardson, and Black, running in that order, erased on Saturday as the

European record, finishing in 2min 56.60sec.

Britain had, as Richardson said, run "out of their skins". Thomas, from blocks, 44.92sec, Baulch 44.19, Richardson 43.62, Black 43.57. It was a measure of their effort that the Americans, each with a personal best better than Black's British record, could be sure of victory only in the final 50 metres.

Yet Black, though recognising the quality of the performance, was not overwhelmed.



"This does not compare to Tokyo," he said. "To be second in the Olympics is fantastic, but it is not the same as winning."

Earlier, Backley had won silver in the javelin. His first-round throw of 87.44 metres stood through the competition as his best and better than all but the second-round effort of 88.18 metres from Jan Zelezny, the world record-holder from the Czech Republic. Thus, the order from the world championships last year was repeated.

Backley stands now as Britain's most consistently successful athlete. Commonwealth and European titles in 1994 and, now, silver medals from successive global championships. Aged 27, he is young enough to return at the next Games and try to complete his set of Olympic medals — bronze in 1992, silver here.

"This has got to be my best ever performance," Backley said. As the season was beginning, and Zelezny was throwing a world record 98.48 metres, Backley was recovering from an operation to repair a ruptured Achilles tendon. He might have doubted that he could get back in time for Atlanta but Kevin Lidlow, his physiotherapist, was adamant he would be ready. Backley believed him.

Kelly Holmes, runner-up in the 1,500 metres at the world championships last year, leaves Atlanta with the feeling that injury may have cost her gold. She finished fourth in the 800 metres but it was the 1,500 metres in which she had the greater potential. She finished eleventh, having run six races with a hairline fracture of her lower left leg.

"I cannot think of any other athlete who could have done it," Malcolm Brown, the team doctor, said. Holmes left the track on crutches. Of those who reached the final, an injury-free Holmes would have had only the eventual winner, Svetlana Masterkova, from Russia, to fear. In the European Cup in June, Holmes had given Masterkova a close race over 800 metres. Two months on, and without the curse of injury, she might have beaten her.

In the men's marathon yesterday, Richard Nerurkar was fifth, but disappointed he did not supply Britain with a medal from the last event of the athletics programme. He was with the leaders through 15 miles but suffered a stomach problem from which he did not recover until 20 miles. By that time, the eventual medal-winners had broken away.

In the closest of all Olympic men's marathon finishes, eight seconds covering the first three, Josia Thugwane provided South Africa with its first black Olympic champion. Thugwane recorded 2hr 12min 36sec, ahead of Lee Bong-jun, from Korea, and Eric Wainaina, of Kenya.



Morceli, centre, sprints clear in the 1,500 metres final as El Guerrouj tumbles to the track, forcing those around him to take evasive action

Morceli secures his place among greats

David Miller watches one of the world's finest athletes fulfil his Olympic goal in a race marred by the fall of his chief rival

Nurmi, Lovelock, Elliott, Snell, Keino, Walker, Coe; the illustrious cavalcade of Olympic champions in the 1,500 metres was incomplete without one of history's finest runners, Noureddine Morceli, of Algeria. Three times world champion, world record-holder at four distances, with the four fastest 1,500 metres times ever run, the only gap in his CV was an Olympic title.

When at last it arrived, it was a sad anticlimax, for everyone but him. The Atlanta final was an echo of the Mary Decker-Zola Budd controversy in the women's 3,000 metres at Los Angeles. With just over a lap to go, Hicham El

Guerrouj, of Morocco, intent on shadowing Morceli stride for stride, closed in behind him too sharply as the Algerian led towards the bell.

El Guerrouj spiked Morceli's heel and fell in a heap, nearly bringing down with him the three runners immediately behind: Fermin Cacho, the defending champion, of Spain. Stephen Kipkorir, of Kenya, and the veteran Abdi Bile, of Somalia. Morceli half-stumbled, recovered his balance within two strides, and with half a glance over his shoulder at the carnage behind him, sped into a five-yard lead over Cacho entering the penultimate bend.

Cacho hurdled the prostrate El Guerrouj, Kipkorir stepped him. Bile briefly dodged into the flowers bordering the inside lane. Laban Rotich, of Kenya, who ran the fastest heat ever in the first round, his colleague, William Tanui, and Marko Koers, of

Holland, swerved around him, but the natural rhythm and the drama of the race had fallen apart. Many had believed that the 21-year-old Moroccan, who had the year's second-fastest time a fraction behind Morceli's 3min 29.50sec, was capable of victory: of denying Morceli the title that went begging in Barcelona, where he finished a dejected seventh while Cacho stole the glory in front of his own people with the slowest victory in 36 years.

Though unbeaten since 1992, except in one 800 metres race two years ago, Morceli, at 26, was possibly vulnerable to El Guerrouj's staying power. From the gun, Kipkorir and Morceli went straight into the lead, holding that position ahead of Rotich with three laps to go. Bidding his time at the back was Bile, now 33, but enjoying a sudden revival, with a time of 3min 33.12sec in the semi-final. Bile had been

disqualified for pushing in the semi-final at Los Angeles, had won the world championship of 1987 and the World Cup two years later, but missed Seoul and Barcelona through injury. Twenty members of his family had died in Somalia's civil war. It required a different kind of spirit from most others for him to be here now.

The first lap went by in a moderate breeze and now all three Kenyans had moved in front ahead of Morceli, who was there with his Moroccan shadow at his shoulder. With two laps to go, Bile had come through to join the front pack. Down the penultimate back straight, Bile was jostling with Cacho and El Guerrouj behind Morceli, who now made his move to the front.

Down the home straight they came, with one lap to go: Morceli in control, Cacho comfortably in place behind, eyes down, knowing what would be required to achieve a

medal of any colour this time. Then El Guerrouj made his blunder.

Round the next bend, Cacho was attempting to stay in touch with Morceli. Bile was battling side by side with Kipkorir, but could not hold him. Down the last back straight, the order opened out: Morceli, Cacho and another six or seven yards between him and Kipkorir and Bile. Around the last bend, Kipkorir strode clear of Bile, who was now fading fast, all three Kenyans striding clear into the home straight and that was how it stayed, with Kipkorir taking the bronze.

The title was Morceli's, never mind a relatively slow 3min 35.78sec, only a fraction faster than Rotich in the first round and way behind Coe's Olympic record of 3min 32.53sec.

History tends not to remember times, only names. Morceli is now there alongside the greats who came before him.

El Guerrouj, meanwhile, paid for his error by coming last, just behind John Mayock, of Britain.

Backley makes it all worthwhile

What a nice chap that Steve Backley is. Not only throws the javelin a devil of a long way, but always has a word for the people who think they made it all possible — us.

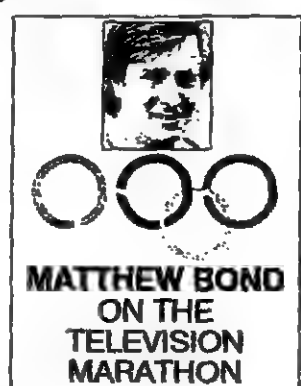
"Any message for the folks back home?" Stuart Storey, at trackside, asked.

"Yes," Backley said, flashing one of those silver medal-winning smiles that he and Roger Black do so well. "Thanks for staying up. I know it's very late back there."

At last, someone who appreciated our efforts. It was 2.30am on night 15 of the Atlanta Games and I was already getting a little tearful. The closing ceremony was still 24 hours away. Scary.

All this talk of the lateness of the hour was too much for David Coleman. An hour or so earlier he had provided one of the truly excruciating moments of the centennial Olympics with an impersonation of how Bruny Surin, the Canadian sprinter, might have encouraged his relay team-mate, Donovan Bailey, on to the gold medal. It went something like: "Hey man, go away and win it," and, yes, Coleman did have a stab at the accent. Now that really was scary.

But that was then and this



MATTHEW BOND ON THE TELEVISION MARATHON

was still 2.30am. "Please, per-lease," Coleman begged, "don't go to bed. There's still one track event left... and that gets underway in 15 minutes' time." Now, at that time of night, 15 minutes seems like an entire synchronised swimming competition — but what the heck. It was the penultimate night, Coleman was begging. Des Lynam had stayed up specially... and the women's high jump was still going on.

When did women high jumpers become so beautiful? Is one of those great unanswered Olympic questions, along with when did Saudi Arabians get good at showjumping, or why rhythmic gymnastics? Whatever the reason, women's

high jump has become the most extraordinary event, with the medals disputed by an endless succession of long-limbed athletes, most of whom look as if they should be on the catwalk rather than heels over head on a bouncy rubber air-bag. I spent a happy 15 minutes transferring my affections between Inha Bubakova, of Ukraine, and Niki Bakogianni, of Greece — and back again.

Talking of sex (in the gender sense, of course) it is about time that the BBC — so perfectionist when it comes to the rights and wrongs of pronunciation — comes up with a definitive ruling on what male commentators call female athletes. Paul Dickinson had a bit of think about it as the high jumpers cantered towards him on Sunday morning... and came up with "performers — especially towards the latter stages". I'm still not sure what that means.

But it can be added to the "little girls" that Barry Davies used for female gymnasts under five feet in height: to the "girls, I mean women" of Nigel Stanger-Smith whenever he remembered Cathy Harris was alongside him at the hockey, and to "the ladies" that Andy Janson insisted

were tearing up and down the Olympic swimming pool. Let's have a little consistency please.

Talking of sexism (which, of course, we also were) the miracle is that the Games could have been much worse — especially if everyone had followed the example set at the beginning by Lynam and a cheerfully colluding Sharon Davies. The bronze medal for showing maximum restraint despite considerable provocation goes to Stuart Storey... for not swooning at the sight of Brigita Bukovec, of Slovenia. In the women's 100 metre hurdles, the silver medal goes to Dougie Donnelly... for his commendable restraint during the entire beach volleyball competition. And the gold medal?

The gold medal goes to Hugh Porter for his contribution during the final stages of the women's mountain-biking last week. It was a hot Atlanta day, cycling suits had been unzipped, singlets flapped and modesty was preserved — until Paolo Pezzo decided that her gold medal would arrive a little quicker if she crouched over the handle-bars. "Certainly been an emphatic display of display of..." Porter faltered. "confidence." Certainly had.

Holland's nearly-men fulfil dream at last

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

HOLLAND'S long-held dream of winning the men's Olympic hockey gold medal was realised late on Friday night with a 3-1 victory over Spain in the final. At the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, Holland were runners-up to India and again at Helsinki in 1952. They had also won three bronze medals.

Spain, who had qualified for the final with victories over Germany and Pakistan, played better hockey than Holland and with delicate touches and superb control, but the second half proved again how lethal the short corner, more popularly known as the penalty corner, can be.

Victor Pujol had put Spain ahead in

the 45th minute but, as in the 1990 World Cup final against Pakistan, Floris Bovelander transformed the match by converting two short corners. Holland added a third goal towards the end.

Holland played constructive hockey. Their steady build-up in midfield and quick burst from the 25-yard line posed many a threat. Bovelander, who had been overshadowed by Taco van den Honert, the wing forward, reserved his ammunition for the right moment and, between the 52nd and 55th minutes, he put his side on the road to victory.

Gregory Nicol and van den Honert were the tournament's joint top scorers with seven goals, Holland having scored four from short corners and three from

open play. Calum Giles, the Great Britain short-corner specialist, scored six. Short corners also dominated the bronze medal play-off in which Australia scored all three goals from these awards to beat Germany 3-2 in a tight finish. The first of Germany's goals was also scored from a short corner.

From Saturday, the offside rule was abolished in order to provide more scope for goals from open play. However, Cedric de Souza, the India coach, is sceptical. "What we are about to see is a sequence of hard hitting from one end of the field to the other and the midfield area will be empty," he said.

FINAL POSITIONS: 1, Holland; 2, Spain; 3, Australia; 4, Germany; 5, South Korea; 6, Pakistan; 7, Great Britain; 8, India; 9, Argentina; 10, South Africa; 11, Malaysia; 12, United States.

OLYMPIC GAMES: AMERICA WAKES UP TO THE EMBARRASSING REALITY OF ITS BASKETBALL MILLIONAIRES

Dream Team becomes a nightmare

SIMON BARNES

They do their dreaming differently over here. Back on the far side of the Atlantic, on those misty islands off the coast of Europe, dreaming is a matter of wild and misty mystery, and the great dreamers have more than a hint of madness about them: Lewis Carroll, James Joyce.

If we, the people of the islands, call someone a dreamer, or a dreamy fellow, we mean he is feckless, daft, impractical, out of touch with reality.

But in the United States, a dream is a very practical matter indeed. In some cases, it is nothing less than a business proposition. "Stay cool," Flo-Jo cooed to me when I asked her the secret of success. "Stay cool and follow your dream."

When Martin Luther King, late of this parish, said that he had a dream, he did not mean he had a fantasy. He spoke as a practical politician of the civil rights movement: a man who believed that changing the face of America was a realistic proposition.

The notion of the dream is part of the heartbeat of America: the culture of aspiration. And for the people of the United States, the Olympic Games are the dramatisation of the concept of the dream.

That is to say, achievement, reaching a goal. The struggle is only interesting in retrospect, as the route-mapping of success. Gallant failure is an oxymoron: the silver medal goes to the first loser. The urgent, almost neurotic need for success has been the keynote of these Games, so far as the people of the United States are concerned.

And so the Dream Team. This was a concept that enraptured America during the Olympic Games of Barcelona, four years ago. The rest of us were, at best, equivocal about these multi-millionaire basketballers strutting about in the Olympic Games, but you could hardly blame America for loving it. It was a schoolboy fantasy come to life: they really did select the World Team to play Mars.

Unfortunately, Mars did not send a team, and so the first Dreamers beat up on mighty nations like Angola and Lithuania. It went down a



Atlanta sketch

storm back home, and so did Dream Team II, which won the world championships two years later. But now to Dream Team III, and America has grown rather weary of it all.

It is a reassuringly grown-up reaction. The Dream Team went into the Games with the announcement that one of their number, Shaquille O'Neal, would receive \$120 million (about £80 million) for playing basketball for seven years. That is practically the gross national product of some

'The darlings of Barcelona are a symbol of the Ugly American'

of the Dream Team's opponents and America, to its credit, squirmed.

There is a phrase which makes Americans go all sensitive: the Ugly American. It is a stick with which they regularly beat themselves. The Ugly American is a creature frequently to be found abroad: loud, hesitating and eaten up with self-importance. At the Olympic Games on American soil, the subject of fierce and justified criticism from the rest of the world, the Dream Team and the darlings of Barcelona have become a symbol of the Ugly American. A colossal embarrassment, nothing less.

The players themselves felt it, shuffling to the final without extending themselves or enjoying themselves. The oth-

er nations, meanwhile, no longer had stars in their eyes at the glory of being on the same court, and sought to spoil and frustrate.

At last to the final, when the United States played Yugoslavia. The game was all right, as it happened. Yugoslavia actually led for most of the first half, and there was still only one point in it with 14 minutes left. After that the Dreamers, forced to play, forced to struggle, forced to fight — quite literally, in one spot — finally found their rhythm and pulled away to win 95-69.

Which dream? That is the eternal question of Alice. Who, in the final analysis, was dreaming? Not the Dream Team. They had a practical task to do, and they performed it. This was not dreaming in a European sense. For us, they were the Reality Team.

American dominance is a reality in politics, economics and popular culture. "McDonald's: proud sponsors of dreams come true." It is the pretenders that are dreaming. The Yugoslav basketballers, all of us. In basketball, at least, the struggles are closer and more bitter.

If you cannot beat America, you can join it. That is why, once again, sport's power-brokers, in a dream of dollars, voted to hold a major sporting event in the United States. And this time, it has all turned out to be rather embarrassing: for America and for the world. The Dream Team summarises that embarrassment.

That has been their function here and it has been a very useful one. They have, in effect, told America and the world to look elsewhere for the truth, for the real joys of the Olympic Games. For the fact is that, apart from the Dreamers and the pathetic organisation, these Olympics have been wonderful. And me, well, I have had the best seven days of sport I can remember.

Saturday, the 100 metres and Bailey's demented victory. Sunday, the mad intensity of the high jump competition. Monday, Nemov's routine on the high bar in the men's gymnastics. Tuesday, the roaring theatrics of super-heavyweight weightlifting. Wednesday, the gorgeous precision of the Chinese female diver, Fu Mingxia. Thursday:



The Dream Team won the tournament but are no longer the golden boys

the impossible running of Michael Johnson, the man in the golden shoes.

And all topped off with (forgive a horseman's maunderings) the glories of dressage. Esoteric but there were 30,000 people there cheering. I wonder how many of them knew a passage from a piffle.

If anything represented the best of America's response to the Games it was this: an understanding that the Olympics are not about the Dream Team's ritual victories, but about the struggle of the best against the best.

Britain had a dreadful Games, and so, in a different

way, did the United States. But ultimately, the Games are about the realities of athletes, not the dreams of nations. I felt my spirits rise to a Russian gymnast, a Chinese diver, a British equestrian, a German horse, and, especially, an American runner. Such stuff as truths are made on.

Atlanta site that continues to inspire all races

Andrew Longmore watches the first black man to win gold for South Africa fittingly pass the birthplace of Martin Luther King in winning the marathon

As it turned out, Josia Thugwane would just have had time to break stride as he ran past No 501 Auburn Avenue on his road to history and still become the first black man to win gold for South Africa. But, with another 22 miles to go, he probably had more important things on his mind than the imposing brown-and-white weatherboarded house, with a swing on the porch and peonies in the front garden, in which Martin Luther King was born in 1929.

Nor, I doubt, would he have been aware of the other milestones marking his route. The Martin Luther King Junior centre for non-violent social change, the bronze sculpture of King inspired by the African ritual of lifting a new-born child to the heavens and reciting the words: "behold the only thing greater than yourself"; the Ebenezer Baptist church where King's father had been the pastor and his mother the musical director and the Odd Fellow building where a black philanthropist, Benjamin J. Davis, set up offices for talented young lawyers and businessmen in the 1920s.

A book recently published called *Where Auburn Avenue meets Peachtree Street* documents the often stormy relationship between the black and white business communities in Atlanta. Fittingly enough, Thugwane ran along both on his way to gold.

Only a select few gathered outside King's birthplace to watch the marathon runners pass. It was, after all, barely breakfast time on Sunday. There was me, a Japanese photogra-

pher, Rhona, a policewoman from Chicago, and her husband Rick wearing an "I have dream..." T-shirt and a jazzy baseball hat, three Atlanta law enforcement officers — policemen to you and me — and Con Egan, who had seen King's house in the background while watching the women's marathon during the week. "I thought then I had to come and watch it from here," he said. "It just

seems right." Most of them shared a sense of suffering with the runners. Rick had proposed to Rhona in front of Cinderella's castle at the eight-mile mark on the Disney marathon 2½ years before, so this was a trip down memory lane. "I was too out of breath to say yes," Rhona said. But they were married anyway. They saved their loudest and longest burst of applause for the last man through.

Opposite, on the corner of Hogue Street, just in front of the concrete slab where the local dime store used to be, a crew from Two Televisions Limited brought the world a rare glimpse of Atlanta's true contribution to history. Well before the first brick was laid for the Coca-Cola building, the first transmission aerial erected on CNN Tower or the first hazy image had flitted through the mind of



The marathon passes the weatherboarded house where the American civil rights leader was born

Billy Payne, the values which would lead to the fulfilment of Atlanta's Olympic vision had been set down in the kitchen and living-room of 501 Auburn Avenue. Without the semblance of "unity in diversity", as the city slogan boasts, Atlanta would not have been able to win the heads, let alone the hearts, of the International Olympic Committee.

Sadly, few of the Olympic dollars being blown around Atlanta seem to have fallen onto the pavements of Auburn Avenue. Only at its western end, at the crossroads with Peachtree Street, just past the mural which depicts the newspaper accounts of white riots against blacks in 1909, does the tone of the neighbourhood change for the wealthier.

The rest could do with a facelift, as King would no doubt have reflected had he been alive to see Atlanta's other dream come true. The house next door to King's birthplace is peeling and faded, unoccupied and plastered with posters warning that "violators will be prosecuted".

When the circus has left town and the costs, including two deaths, counted, the organisers might reflect that too much was done in the name of commerce, too little in the name of history. Forget minor inconveniences such as missing buses and incompetent officials, these Games have searched in vain to find dignity and soul. It took a black mineworker from Cape Town two hours, 12 minutes and 36 seconds to show us where those precious qualities can be found, not in the hawkers' paradise of Centennial Park but in the fading photos of 501 Auburn Avenue.

Britain's best just not good enough to lift gloom

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

ANY lingering hope of a showjumping medal to compensate for Great Britain's disastrous showing in the Olympic equestrian events here vanished yesterday when — despite a last-minute rush to mass by Romie Massarella, the team manager — the three Britons in the individual final all incurred four faults in the opening round.

Nick Skelton, John Whitaker and Geoff Billington did not jump badly, it was simply that others jumped better. Ten riders completed clear rounds over the 12-fence course, leaving the 15 on four faults with no realistic chance of a medal. "If I rode it again I wouldn't do anything different," Billington said. "You can't blame the going or the course — it was just bad luck."

The competition had looked wide open at the start of the day. The two main protagonists were absent: Ludger Beerbaum, the defending champion from Germany, whose mare, Ratina, sustained a leg injury in Thursday's team event, and his compatriot Franke Smoots, the world champion, who failed to qualify.

Linda Allen, already acclaimed for her imaginative course for the team event, produced another inspired track that relied on technical questions rather than huge fences. Heavy early morning rain, though, had made the going soggy with puddles lying on the sand arena and, because of the conditions, the time allowed for the competition was extended — too generously as it transpired.

Skelton, drawn second, was faultless over the first half but, just he looked set to compensate for his poor showing in the team event, his mare, Showtime, faulted at the penultimate fence, the 14ft 10in-wide water jump, just as she had done in both rounds on Thursday. With frustrating consistency, Whitaker, on Welham, also made the same mistake as on Thursday, incurring four faults at the last fence. "He was jumping well. I don't know why he did it," Whitaker said.

Billington, who has put every ounce of effort into his performance here, incurred his four faults at fence eight, The Bixby Bridge Liverpool. He thought it's Otto may have just lost concentration after the 30,000-strong crowd had burst out clapping when he jumped clear through the previous fence, the difficult New Orleans Triple Combination.

Meanwhile, Germany, despite the loss of their two best riders, produced the first clear round through Lars Nieberg, on For Pleasure. This was swiftly followed by a second from the European champion, Peter Charles, of Ireland, on Benetton. With a further eight faultless rounds joining those on four faults in the second and final round it looked as if Allen's aim — for the medals to be decided in a jump-off — would be fulfilled.

Germany continued their domination of the dressage contest when Isabell Werth, on Gigolo, added the individual gold medal to their world and European titles after a sparkling performance in Saturday's final round, the Freestyle to Music.

Anky van Grunsven, of Holland, on Bonfire, who had been in the lead after the second round, had to settle for the silver medal after making untypical mistakes in her new musical programme. Her compatriot Sven Rothenberger, on Weyden, who formerly rode for Germany, took the bronze.

Cubans take double in ring

FELIX SAVON and Ariel Hernandez gave Cuba its first boxing golds of the Olympics on Saturday by retaining the titles they won four years ago.

Savon, a five-times world champion, who is unbeaten internationally in ten years, beat Nigerian-born Canadian David Defagbon 20-2 in the heavyweight contest.

"He's the greatest," said Defagbon, who said his coaches had detected a weakness in Savon's technique that they had hoped would allow him to crack the Cuban's defence. If there was a weakness, it was not apparent.

Middleweight Hernandez, also a world champion and rated pound-for-pound the best amateur in the world, beat Malik Beyleroglu, from Turkey, 11-3 in a less exciting contest.

Two other Cubans — out of a total seven finalists — settled for silver, beaten by the Hungarian bantamweight, Ivar Kovacs, and the Russian welterweight, Oleg Saitov.

Kovacs, a former world champion, said he might now turn professional after beating Arnaldo Mesa.



14-7. Saitov beat Juan Hernandez, a silver medal-winner in 1992 and no relation to Ariel, in a composed 14-9 win.

New deal

Athletics: A day after winning her last Olympic medal, Jackie Joyner-Kersey talked a future that may include basketball. Joyner-Kersey is toying with the idea of playing in one of the new US professional women's leagues.

Call to women

Boxing: Amateur boxing organisers are studying plans to have women fighters in the Olympics by the year 2004. "Women could save the sport," the International Amateur Boxing Association president, Anwar Chowdhry, said on Saturday.

Nigeria joy

Football: Nigeria became the first African team to win the Olympic tournament when they scored a controversial, late goal to beat Argentina 3-2 in the final on Saturday. Nigeria's military government declared today a public holiday to celebrate.

Ali's medal

Boxing: Muhammad Ali has been presented with an Olympic gold medal to replace the one he threw into a river in disgust after returning from the 1960 Games in Rome.



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CYCLING: INDURÁIN CONSIDERS FUTURE AFTER CROWNING BRILLIANT CAREER WITH TIME-TRIAL GOLD

Boardman plans finest hour to follow bronze

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN ATLANTA

NOT satisfied with finishing the Tour de France for the first time and adding a bronze medal in the individual time-trial to his gold from Barcelona, Chris Boardman could mount a challenge for the hour record, the ultimate test of endurance, over the next month.

Boardman held the record two years ago, before Tony Rominger, of Switzerland, in a leap of Bob Beamon proportions, put it almost out of sight with an average speed of just under 55.3 kilometres per hour.

"Gold would have salvaged my year after a disappointing Tour," Boardman said after finishing 31 seconds behind the gold medal-winner, Miguel Induráin, of Spain. "But two things now haven't gone well and I still want to get something out of the year."

Ever thorough, Boardman has already tested himself over 20 minutes to see if the target was realistic. "I averaged 55kph, which suggests I am within shouting distance of the record at least. But it requires a lot of organisation and I'll have to do a lot more research to see if I'm physically capable of doing it."

A successful attack on the hour would raise Boardman's standing in France, home of his sponsors, Gan, after his hopes of finishing in the top 20 of the Tour had been left battered and bruised on the slopes of the Alps. On the Continent, the hour record is regarded as second only to victory in the Tour in terms of prestige. But the fact that Boardman is turning his mind to the hour and to the next Olympic Games, in Sydney, where he says there will be "no compromise" in his attempt to

win a second gold, suggests that his long-term aim of winning the Tour is receding fast. "It's a dot in the distance, not completely out of sight."

Oppressive heat and the relentless determination of the Spaniards, Induráin and Abraham Olano, the silver medal-winner, stifled Boardman's early charge for a second gold medal on Saturday. Eighteen seconds ahead of Induráin after the first of the four 12km laps, Boardman threw off his helmet as he crossed the finishing line for



Induráin: end of the road?

the start of the second lap, a sign that the humidity was beginning to take its toll. "I overcooked the first lap — that's a good word — but I was feeling so fresh," Boardman said. "I had to back off for the next two because I feared I might get heatstroke."

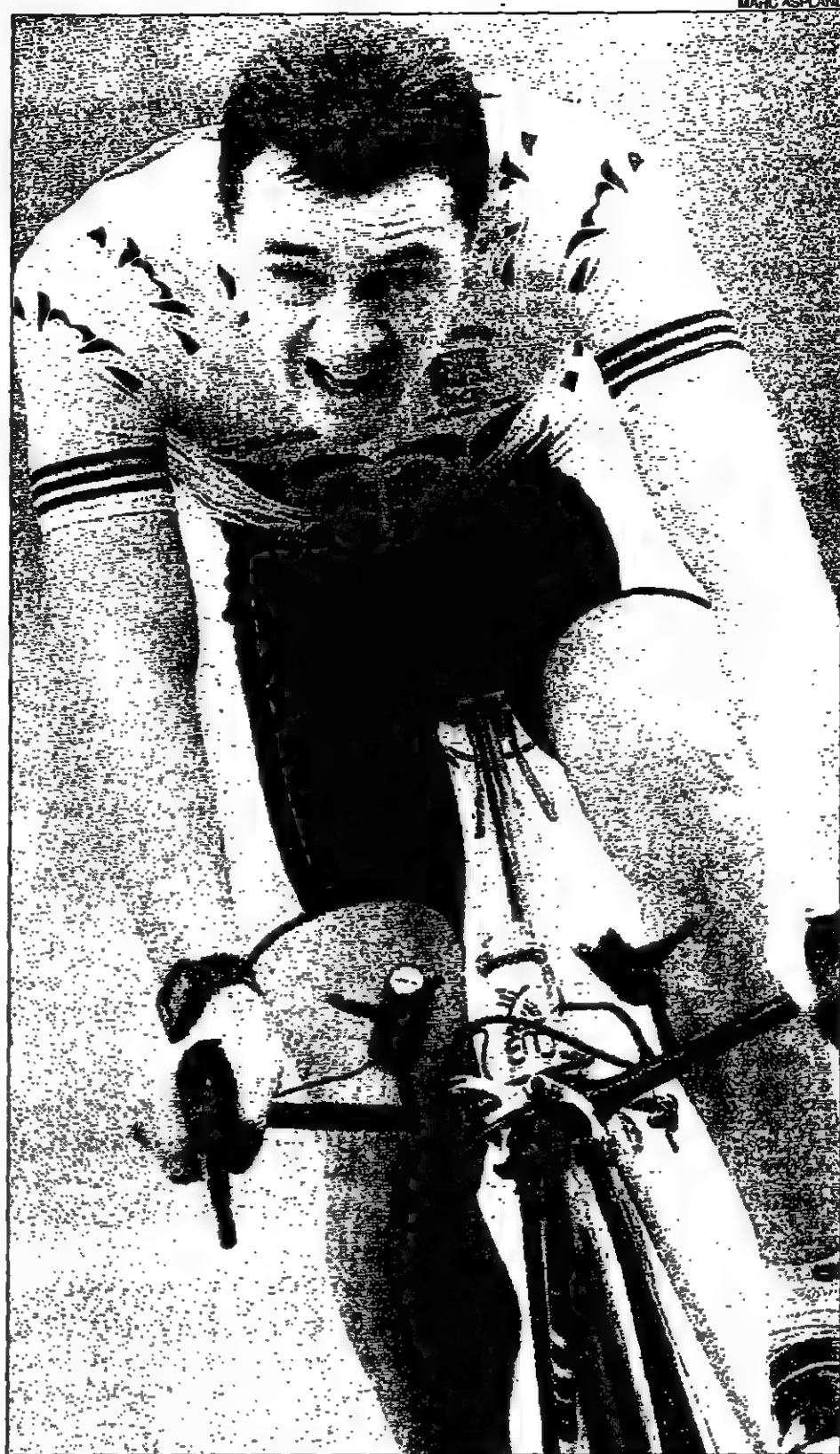
Induráin had cut the lead to three seconds by halfway and took it soon afterwards, resisting a final challenge from Olano to win by 12 seconds and, quite possibly, to bring the career of cycling's greatest

champion to a golden end. Rumours that the big Navarrese will announce his retirement soon are growing stronger by the day. Now that he has a gold medal to put into his collection of five straight victories in the Tour de France, there can be little else to aim for. Miguel Jr, not yet one, sat happily on his mother's knee at the back of a chaotic victory press conference, a reminder that his life is no longer all cycling.

"At the moment I will be riding the Tour next year," Induráin said. "I will keep in training, see how it feels and then decide what will happen." It was hardly an emphatic commitment, but who knows how deep the waters run in Induráin's gentle mind? A winter on his farm near Pamplona might yet recharge the batteries and render Boardman's claim that the Spaniard is about to retire no more than wishful thinking.

Yet if that was the last we shall see of the Spaniard, it was a fitting epitaph. Time-trials had always been the basis of his invincibility on the Tour. On the undulating streets of suburban Atlanta, Induráin was back in his element, riding with the relentless rhythm and the half-smile which characterised his days of dominance. The memory of the forlorn figure toiling up the final three kilometres to Les Arcs, a champion no more, receded into the distance.

"He's such a superb athlete and he wanted to win this," Boardman said. "But the real problem is that he's a really nice bloke as well. You can't get angry enough with him to want to beat him."



Boardman, who was troubled by the humidity, on the way to a bronze medal

Dailey ready to ring changes in pursuit of success

FROM PETER BRYAN

DOUG DAILEY, the national coach responsible for Great Britain's Olympic cycling team, will have spent much of the ten hours' flying time from Atlanta pondering how to improve the track squad's prospects in time for the world championships in Manchester.

He needs to find the answers quickly; less than a month remains in which to make changes to an Olympic

line-up that failed not only to win a medal but performed below the standards achieved in training.

"My thinking is that there will have to be some changes," Dailey said before leaving the Olympic Village. He added that he also wanted to prepare a revised training schedule for his short-listed riders.

Dailey has had one problem area — the 4,000 metres individual pursuit — already resolved for him. Chris Boardman, who won the bronze

medal in the 52 kilometres individual road time-trial on Saturday, confirmed after a superb ride that he is ready to be drafted into the track team.

There will be no quibbles with that. When Boardman commits himself, he generally delivers. He won the pursuit at the Barcelona Games, finished third to Graeme Obree in the 1993 world championship, and became world pursuit champion the following year.

It might well be Boardman to the rescue again in a revised composition of the 4,000 metres pursuit squad, that is also due for change.

Boardman rarely involves himself in controversy but, after the time-trial, he questioned the wisdom of using a technically difficult circuit which, as he had correctly forecast, became dangerous in places when a downpour gave the road a surface like a skidpan. He still carries both the physical and mental scars

of his crash in the rain-soaked prologue to the Tour de France last year.

Miguel Induráin, after his disappointing Tour de France, reinstated himself as the master time-trial rider in Atlanta.

He finished the first of the 13-kilometre laps 18 seconds adrift of Boardman, but had narrowed the gap to three seconds by the end of lap two. The Briton had lost the lead on the third circuit and Induráin took the bell 12 seconds ahead.

On the final lap, the Spaniard pushed further ahead and his compatriot, Abraham Olano, climbed to second place with Induráin winning the first Olympic "open" time-trial in the 4min 55sec, an average speed of 48.87kph.

Yvonne McGregor, the British time-trial champion, never got to grips with the demanding circuit and finished fourteenth in the women's 20 kilometres event, won by Zulfia Zabirowa, of Russia, who had finished sixth in the women's road race.

Britain basks in silver afterglow

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IT HAS been a good Games for British sailing. In the end the team came away with two silver medals but it was so close to another bronze, which slipped away on the last day of competition. Had Andy Beadsworth, Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead been on their usual form in the Soling match-racing, we would be able to write about one of Britain's best ever performances.

Nevertheless, there was nothing to be ashamed of in Savannah. Only Brazil, with two golds and a silver, won more medals than Britain. Britain was among six countries with two medals, while no less than 15 other countries came away with just one.

Britain was a serious player in five classes and could so easily have gone on to win medals in all of them.

The team showed strength in depth and banished the ghosts of Barcelona where it had to make do with a solitary bronze, for Lawrie Smith in the Solings.

This time the two hottest tips for medals, Ben Ainslie, in the Lasers, and John Merricks and Ian Walker, in the 470s, both came through. Ainslie is now already well on the way to becoming the next big star in British yacht racing and his thrilling battle with Robert Scheidt, of Brazil, captured the public imagination in a way yacht racing has rarely done before.

Merricks and Walker were not on their best form, but again showed their class by being able to grind out a result, while carrying three or four poor finishes which would have been enough to sink others with less fighting spirit and self-belief. Like Ainslie, who is just 19, they are young and represent a good investment for the future.

Of the others, Beadsworth's

near miss was the least predictable. He has sailed with increasing authority in the Solings and came to Savannah fired-up after winning at Hilton Head a few weeks earlier. In the event he did not sail to his true potential after looking very comfortable in the fleet. Medals in Solings, though, are not often won at the first attempt and Beadsworth may have another go in Sydney.

Some may say that two medals are not enough. However, the spread of countries indicates that the sailing world is broadening dramatically with top-class performers emerging in nations not associated with Olympic success in the past. Spain, which won five medals in Barcelona, including four golds, had to make do with two golds this time, while the United States had a difficult time in home waters, notching up two bronzes in comparison with its nine medals in Barcelona.

Rod Carr, the British team manager, was clearly disappointed to see Beadsworth's chance slip away, but generally he was satisfied with the results of the best-funded and organised Olympic campaign ever mounted by the Royal Yachting Association. "I think we've done a good job. I think the preparation and support that the sailors had, has built a platform from which medals could be won," he said.

Carr added that he did not believe the decision to go for early selection this time — last August instead of early summer this year — made that much difference to the outcome. "I don't think it's an issue. We've had the right people in all the classes, with two different systems at the last two Games. I have to say I favour the early system but I don't think it's had a material effect," he said.

YESTERDAY IN ATLANTA

Athletics

Men's marathon

1. J. Thompson (SA) 2h 12m 26sec, 2. Bong Ju Lee (S Kor) 2:12:30, 3. E. Wanjiru (Ken) 2:12:44, 4. M. Fe (Sen) 2:13:20, 5. R. Nkurunzira (BDI) 2:13:38, 6. G. Sava (Mali) 2:14:22, 7. S. Mwangi (Ken) 2:14:35, 8. B. Rader (Mali) 2:14:55, 9. D. Soti (Ken) 2:15:08, 10. L. A. dos Santos (Br) 2:15:56, 11. C. Serey (Gol) 2:15:58, 12. Y. Yvonne (Ken) 2:16:17, 13. T. Chumasa (Zim) 2:16:31, 14. A. Piro (Por) 2:16:41, 15. D. Gert (Mex) 2:16:48, 16. A. Kalembo (Zim) 2:17:01, 17. S. Wade (NZ) 2:17:04, 18. A. Jazadzo (Sen) 2:17:24, 19. H. Tembe (Lesotho) 2:17:26, 20. S. Bepko (ET) 2:17:27, 21. P. Fomanya (Cam) 2:17:28, 22. R. Vera (Ecu) 2:17:40, 23. R. de Hyden (Arg) 2:17:42, 24. J. M. Nkomo (Zim) 2:17:45, 25. D. Mwangi (Ken) 2:17:46, 26. T. Mwangi (Ken) 2:17:47, 27. T. Soti (Ken) 2:17:48, 28. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:49, 29. T. Soti (Ken) 2:17:50, 30. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:51, 31. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:52, 32. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:53, 33. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:54, 34. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:55, 35. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:56, 36. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:57, 37. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:58, 38. S. Soti (Ken) 2:17:59, 39. S. Soti (Ken) 2:18:00, 40. S. Soti (Ken) 2:18:01.

Canoeing

Men's 500m Canadian singles

FINAL: 1. M. Doka (Cze) 1min 49.95sec, 2. S. Nizovodny (Slovakia) 1:50.51, 3. J. P. P. (Hung) 1:50.75, 4. M. Shewchuk (Ukr) 1:51.71, 5. J. Zvezda (Cze) 1:52.06, 6. C. Fedaruk (Den) 1:52.85, 7. K. Neodzhayev (Bul) 1:53.15, 8. S. G. G. (Cze) 1:53.27, 9. B. B. (Bul) 1:53.40, 10. B. B. (Bul) 1:53.40.

Men's 500m Canadian pairs

FINAL: 1. Hungary (C. Horvath and G. Nemes) 1:40.42, 2. Moldova (N. Jurcsik and V. Rencsok) 1:40.45, 3. Romania (G. Andonov and G. Oltene) 1:41.23, 4. Germany (A. 1:42.48, 5. Spain (A. 1:43.57, 6. Slovenia (A. 1:44.11, 7. Belarus (A. 1:45.48).

Handball

Men's play-offs

BRONZE MEDAL MATCH: Spain 27 France 25

MEDALS TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	42	32	25	Finland	1	2	1
Russia	26	20	14	Indonesia	1	1	2
Germany	18	16	27	Iran	1	1	1
China	17	22	12	Yugoslavia	1	1	1
France	15	7	14	Armenia	1	1	0
Italy	12	8	11	Portugal	1	0	1
Australia	9	9	20	Slovakia	1	0	1
South Korea	7	13	5	Burundi	1	0	0
Cuba	7	7	9	Costa Rica	1	0	0
Poland	7	7	4	Ecuador	1	0	0
Ukraine	7	2	11	Hong Kong	1	0	0
Spain	5	6	6	Syria	1	0	0
Hungary	5	4	9	Argentina	0	2	1
Romania	4	7	8	Namibia	0	2	0
Czech Rep	4	7	8	Slovenia	0	2	0
Switzerland	4	2	0	Austria	0	1	1
Denmark	4	1	1	Uzbekistan	0	1	1
Turkey	4	1	1	Azerbaijan	0	1	0
Canada	3	10	5	Bahamas	0	1	0
Bulgaria	3	6	5	Croatia	0	1	0
Japan	3	6	5	Lithuania	0	1	0
Holland	3	5	10	Zambia	0	1	0
Czech Rep	3	5	10	India	0	1	0
Brazil	3	5	10	Philippines	0	1	0
New Zealand	3	2	1	Taiwan	0	1	0
Ireland	3	0	1	Indonesia	0	1	0
Kazakhstan	3	0	1	Georgia	0	0	2
Belgium	2	2	2	Morocco	0	0	2
Nigeria	1	1	3	Trinidad	0	0	2
Norway	1	1	3	Austria	0	0	1
North Korea	1	1	3	Israel	0	0	1
South Africa	1	1	1	Lithuania	0	0	1
Algeria	0	0	1	Mexico	0	0	1
Ethiopia	0	0	1	Moldova	0	0	1
Great Britain	0	0	1	Mongolia	0	0	1
Belarus	0	0	1	Mozambique	0	0	1
Kenya	0	0	1	Tunisia	0	0	1
Jamaica	0	0	1	Uganda	0	0	1
Sweden	0	0	1				

At end of Saturday's events

Agassi shows his mettle in crushing win

FROM DAVID MILLER

SOME commentators, and a few players who stayed away, dismissed the Olympic tennis tournament as an irrelevance alongside the professional circuit. Andre Agassi was so motivated by the desire to win for his country that he produced a truly devastating display to crush Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, in straight sets in the men's singles final. Bruguera, twice the French Open champion, did not capitulate. He was pounded into submission 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.

Anyone who did not witness Agassi's systematic destruction of his opponent's game might suppose that Bruguera had perhaps thrown in the towel beneath a sapping sun once he had lost his service twice in the opening set. Not so. He fought as best he could, until, at 1-4 down in the third set, he at last gave signs that Agassi's control and groundstroke power had drained him of resistance.

Against all predictions, against all the evidence this season of premature elimination in the French Open and at Wimbledon, and narrow survival in the first round here against Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, Agassi suddenly touched his peak. His talent burst forth from a shell that had become crusty and eroded by professional neglect. It was, perhaps, his best performance since losing the final of last year's US Open to Pete Sampras, and bodes well for this year's US Open in New York in three weeks.

When he broke Bruguera's service for 2-1 in the first set, the strength unleashed by his forehead left Bruguera groping. When he broke again for 4-1, taking the ball unbelievably early on return of service, he seemed literally to be dancing at the back of the court. Never mind that Bruguera nowadays is ranked in the 60s, it was one of the most extraordinary transformations in form I have seen in years.

"The way I was playing today," Agassi said, "I didn't care who was the other side of the net. I ran for every ball. This level is the way I can play, and that I'm used to. I get my work ethic in the place it should be. I'm back to feeling it doesn't matter who I'm playing. I like that."

It was difficult to estimate accurately the depth of sincerity of this multi-millionaire son of an Iranian immigrant, himself twice an Olympic boxer, when he said that winning the gold medal was "quite amazing, the greatest accomplishment I've had in sport."

And Wimbledon? A grand slam title was the biggest in tennis, he reflected, but this was an event that was the biggest in all of sport, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Hearing the anthem was also "the greatest accomplishment", and the emotion of playing for his country had "motivated me". Yet he seemed irritated to be reminded that he has not always chosen to answer the call of his country in the Davis Cup.

He did appear genuinely moved by the playing of the Stars and Stripes, but whatever his innermost thoughts, his play had been exceptional, dispelling any recollection he might have had that he should have been expelled from the tournament for obesity in his quarter-final match against Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa.

The game in which he broke Bruguera to take the second set was particularly memorable: a scrambling backhand to retrieve a rally followed by a smash to put Bruguera 15-30; an exquisite drop shot that had the gleeful crowd gasping with surprise for 15-40; and a blistering forehand pass to conclude another rally. A running forehand hit down the line, worthy of Boris Becker, gave him the third set break for 3-1, and it was all over.

When beating Fernando Meligeni, of Brazil, to take the bronze medal, Leander Paes gained India's first medal since their men's hockey team won in Moscow 16 years ago, and the first individual medal since a wrestling bronze in 1952. Paes's father had won a silver medal with the India hockey team in 1972.

Agassi proudly clutches the gold medal after his victory.

German technology shunts Trains aside

BY CRAIG LORD

THE Train brothers, Stephen and Andrew, were not alone in finding themselves up Lake Lanier without the right paddle — or canoe — in a cloud-covered contest in which eight nations were given a Teutonic and technological trouncing.

Andreas Dittmer and Gunar Kirchbach, of Germany, had finished third in the Canadian Pairs (C2) 1,000 metres at the world championships in Duisburg last August. At the weekend, they became Olympic champions, their victory sparked by the advantages of a new boat design that reduces resistance to water.

From the start, it looked as though the world champions, Gyorgy Kolonic and Csaba Horvath, of Hungary, and the Romanians, Marcel Glavan and Antonel Borsan — who were second in Duisburg — would repeat their 1995 results. They led from the start, with the Trains following close behind and the Germans last of the nine finalists at 250 metres.

Dittmer and Kirchbach had recovered to fourth by halfway and set up the momentum for a devastating and decisive surge that took them from 1,735sec down on the Romanians at the three-

quarter markers to almost half a second ahead by the time they crossed the bubbleline finish in 3min 31.87sec, the fastest in Olympic history. Romania held on for the silver medal 0.2sec behind, with the Trains, who clocked the fastest third-quarter 250 metres in the race before fading badly, 4.8sec behind the winners in sixth.

The Germans introduced their new boat design for the Games at Lake Lanier, 55 miles north of Atlanta. Their revolutionary canoe is swept low in the stern, with wings just wide enough to meet international specifications (several protests failed). The boat is narrower than usual where the paddler is kneeling, which makes it easier for each stroke to be more parallel to the boat's direction of movement.

The boats are designed to reduce the percentage of the boat in the water and are said to have a special advantage if there is a cross wind. The weekend weather left that latter theory untested at Lake Lanier. "We believe this design has helped reduce our time by 1.0sec," Dirk Boehme, an engineer at the research group which developed the boat, said.



Black, Thomas, Richardson and Baulch show off the silver medals won in the Olympic 4 x 400 metres relay on Saturday

JP 12:15:50

Olympic spirit survives Atlanta



Two months before the Centennial Games, the last meeting was held between ACOG, the host organisers, and the co-ordination commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), chaired by Richard Pound, a Canadian tax lawyer. Francois Carrard, the IOC director general, asked ACOG to test their IBM communications and information system.

Unnecessary, ACOG replied, over-confidently. "We're not buffoons". Was this not the world's technologically most advanced nation? Carrard insisted nonetheless that the request be recorded in the minutes. Within 24 hours of the Games opening 16 days ago, ACOG was floundering in communications chaos.

The city that had won the Games by an audacious confidence-trick led by Billy Payne, a hustling property lawyer, had been embarrassingly found out. Seoul and Barcelona staged memorable Games that helped to develop and regenerate their cities for public benefit. Atlanta, as the *New York Times* said yesterday, merely had gold-rush fever.

Payne promised the city it would not have to spend a dollar. The consequent private sector cost-cutting administration and broken promises endangered the South's reputation for hospitality, which has been upheld only by willing, largely uninformed and over-worked volunteers, many of whom have been treated as shabbily as officials, the media and some athletes. We never found the soul of Atlanta, unless it was the ragged street vendors.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, was critical of the appalling accreditation system at the airport, delaying some competitors for hours after day-long journeys; of the dysfunctional transport of the length of the athletes' parade at the opening ceremony.

"What has been great is the sport and the spectators, incredible numbers," Samaranch said, "but from the experience we've had, we know that the organisation must be made in conjunction with government guarantees."

To ACOG's credit, they have handled 8.5 million ticket-holders,



Potapovich, of Kazakhstan, sails over the pole vault bar, silhouetted against the Atlanta sky. His efforts failed to secure him a medal, though, as he finished in fourth. Photograph: Mike Hewitt/Allsport

three million more than ever before.

Pound, the IOC's financial negotiator, believes that the host city must carry some of the financial responsibility for providing venues, as did Montreal, Seoul and Barcelona. Atlanta paid for venues out of operational budget. "It is possible to raise \$1.7 billion privately, but it's risky," Pound said. "The rush to secure the NBC contract up front

probably left \$100 million on the table. The public sector should commit a minimum percentage."

"When we decide the city for 2004 we'll take the organising committee/host city equation into account. We'll be careful not to make any mistake [again]."

Payne would never receive the "greatest Games" acclaim for which he yearned. Within days, ACOG had become the joke acro-

nym: Atlanta Can't Organise Games. The arrogance behind many failures was apparent in the original intention, vetoed by the IOC, for the Olympic flag to be carried into the opening ceremony by members of Payne's committee, with no athletes. Payne had promised an international conception for the centenary: what we got here in Atlanta as opposed to television's slick projection, was bare-faced commercial expediency.

Yes, the Games were great, between the starting line and the finishing line of events. Atlanta provided exemplary venues, yet inside these, the effective administration was run primarily by each international sports federation, not the hosts. The peripheral conditions were at times chaotic and improved only marginally. The deficiencies were at source budgetary. ACOG had been unwilling, or unable, to pay and train the middle management that makes things work in the field.

The observing Sydney committee has departed, warned and alarmed, conscious how a Games can threaten a city's reputation as well as enhance it. William Hartsfield, the former mayor after whom the world's second-busiest airport is named, once said that racially divided Atlanta "was too busy to hate". He might have said, like many Americans, too busy to understand foreigners. In conjunction with NBC's overwhelmingly chauvinistic coverage, the Games were made to seem to be the United States v Rest of the World, the public left almost unaware that foreign nations were also competing against each other. NBC managed not to show the 1,500 metres swimming event. No Americans were competing.

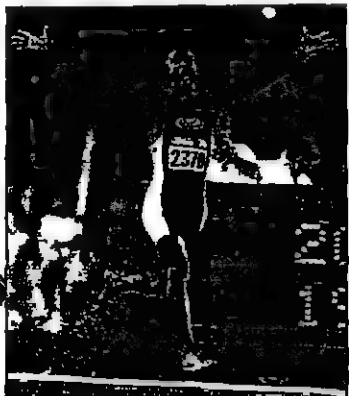
Huge though they have become, however, the Games will survive. Cities crave the opportunity to be hosts. The images and the emotions of the past two weeks have been as intense and enthralling, as symbolic of life's lottery, as ever. There is so much to remember: the dignity of trembling Mohammad Ali lighting the flame, and then receiving on Saturday a replica from Samaranch of the 1960 boxing medal he had flung away in disgust over his Vietnam conscientious objection; the four consecutive Games gold medals of Carl Lewis and Steven Redgrave; Fu Mingxia's imperishable elegance on the diving board; the first medal for a South African black by Hezekiel Sepeng; the first individual medal in 44 years for India, the world's second-most populous country, when Leander Paes gained the tennis bronze; Michael Johnson's magical speed; Gillian Rolton, of Australia, falling from her horse in the three-day event, and continuing despite breaking her collarbone and three ribs, to help to win the title.

Whether we run, watch or write, the spirit of the Games remains as strong as ever.

DAVID MILLER



For Henman, left, and Broad, striking silver in the men's tennis doubles was an achievement to treasure



Johnson sets 200m world record



Chemerkina celebrates victory



Fu Mingxia leaps to gold in the three-metre springboard diving



An injured Gunnell is helped from the track



China's synchronised swimmers take the plunge



Ainslie is a spectator after the disqualification which cost him a chance of the gold medal



Injured Powell's brave bid for a long jump medal ends in agony Zenovka falls, Parygin wins

CRICKET

Caddick wins vote over Gough for Headingley Test

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE compromise and sentiment that has disfigured too many England selections was laudably absent yesterday. Victory is imperative in the second Test against Pakistan that begins at Headingley on Thursday, and the pursuit of it has produced a squad of flexibility without fudge.

Graeme Hick has been dropped, a humane decision for all concerned. Simon Brown is also excluded, not because there was any shame attached to his debut at Lord's but because the priorities are now different, and if this was difficult, the continued omission of Darren Gough, this time on his home ground, required judgment that will inevitably be controversial.

Gough's place, as all Yorkshire will indignantly perceive, has gone to Andy Caddick and, given the reputation of the Leeds crowd when one of their own has been selected, it is as well for Caddick that he at least won over the East Riding, as well as the selectors, with his superb seam bowling at Scarborough last week.

Caddick has an awkward personality. A solitary man, aloof and humourless, he might be thought temperamentally unsuited to a team game. The quality of his bowling, though, is undeniable and, since recovering from an operation on his shins, he has begun to bowl with menace and consistency.

His eight previous Tests were against Australia in 1993 and in the West Indies the following winter, when he twice took five wickets in an innings and dismissed Brian Lara four times — a notable achievement even if, on one occasion, Lara had made 375. Gough, who has all the appeal and charisma Caddick lacks, can feel unfortunate, but the issue came down to a straight choice between the pair and, for Headingley, Caddick's seam was thought more appropriate than Gough's swing.

The return from injury of Nasser Hussain and Chris Lewis is augmented by the return from purgatory of John Crawley, who last played a Test innings 12 months ago and has suffered setbacks ever since. This is admirable, for Crawley is worthy of an extended run, but the best of the selectors' decisions involves a reprieve, in distinctly different ways, for both Jack Russell and Alec Stewart.

Prior to the gathering in Leicester on Saturday evening, Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, had let it be known that he favoured using Stewart as wicketkeeper. One might have thought this was an exhausted expedient, one that wrongly assumes Stewart will make more runs than Russell when in a dual role, but it was duly aired extensively at the meeting before a consensus was found.

Whatever the other options available this week, Russell will continue keeping wicket. It is true that he has not been

M.A. Atherton (Leeds, captain)	Age	Tests
A.J. Stewart (Surrey)	23	46
N.V. Knight (Worcestershire)	25	10
N. Hussain (Essex)	28	10
G.P. Thorpe (Surrey)	26	30
J.P. Crawley (Leicestershire)	24	10
R.C. East (Essex)	24	2
R.C. Russell (Gloucestershire)	32	48
A.C. Lewis (Surrey)	28	30
D.G. Cook (Derbyshire)	24	14
A.R. Caddick (Somerset)	27	8
D.A. Salisbury (Sussex)	28	8
A.D. Mullally (Leicestershire)	27	4

at his immaculate best, which is so tidy as to be unnoticed, but he is still peerless in what should remain a specialist position. Paradoxically, his retention will also come as a great relief to Stewart.

It has been an unsettled summer for Stewart and his England career has existed precariously. At Lord's, however, he batted better than at any time in the past 18 months and his reward is the freedom not only to concentrate on his batting, but to do so in the position he prefers, going in first to partner Michael Atherton.

There are contradictory views about Stewart. One says that he is hanging on by his bootlaces and must put up



Caddick: consistent

with batting anywhere and everywhere. The other, which these selectors have now embraced, is that Stewart is an accomplished senior player, in decent form, and that he should bat, unencumbered, where it suits him best.

So it will not be Stewart but Nick Knight who approaches this game as the floating batsman. Thus far, his temperament has been more convincing than his technique and with Crawley installed as a straight replacement for Hick, whose runs for Worcestershire this week quite rightly failed to seduce the selectors, it is Knight whose place depends upon the balance of the XI.

Illingworth favours six specialist batsmen as prudent reinforcement against the brilliance of the Pakistan bowling. If the weather at Leeds later this week is gloomy, as forecast, and the pitch well-grassed, as England would request, this will almost certainly be the policy, in which case the attack will be limited to four seam bowlers.

The danger, here, is that Hick's omission leaves no support bowling. So, within the chosen 13, the alternative exists of batting Ronnie Irani, recalled for the injured Mark Ealham, at No 6, and including Ian Salisbury ahead of one of the seam bowlers. With Brown already jettisoned and Caddick identified as the horse for this singular course, Alan Mullally is the vulnerable seamer.

Salisbury, who is taking advice, adjusting his line and eliminating the profligacy of old, deserves all the encouragement he is receiving and will also play in the Test and County Cricket Board XI, chosen by the selectors, against South Africa A on August 15. He should be guaranteed a winter in Zimbabwe and New Zealand, something that cannot be said of Hick.

Whether his problems are in his mind, rather than of fundamental technique, Hick has been bafflingly unfocused for England this summer and Illingworth offered no promises of yet another swift recall. "It is not a matter of giving him a rest," he said. "He will always go back to county cricket and make runs. We are in a three-Test series and we cannot afford to carry anyone." It is hard to believe this marks the end of a frustrating Test career, but it may easily mean an extended interruption.



Brown, the Durham bowler, shows his delight after trapping Saqlain Mushtaq leg before at Chester-Le-Street yesterday

Durham facing another pitch battle

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of three: Durham won toss; Durham, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 94 runs ahead of the Pakistanis)

ON THE day he was stood down from Test duty Simon Brown helped bowl out the tourists with five good wickets but, as so often, he will end up paying for the batting deficiencies of his comrades. No championship match involving Durham this season, unaffected by rain, has reached the fourth day and when they were 15 for four last night it seemed unlikely this one would stretch into a third.

Durham hung on, just, as Roseberry, who had passed on the captain's duties earlier in the day to Morris, defied the pain of a fractured index finger to bat through to stumps. However, there is not

much to come either today, or for the rest of the season. Play, incidentally, continued until 7.25pm as both sides dawdled through their overs.

Batting was not easy on another sub-standard pitch, as balls alternately crept and flew. What this does for the batsmen's confidence is not hard to divine. In his two years as captain Roseberry has made no more than 60 in a championship innings and Morris's first-ball duck was his fourth this year. This gifted stroke-maker, brought to Durham to lift the batting, currently averages 17 in first-class cricket.

Durham, therefore, have been hoist with their own petard. They prepared a sporting pitch — other adjectives spring to mind — and the only person to come a cropper was their captain. Pakistan will march on to Headingley sound in mind and body, and such is their bowling strength they should not be too worried

about the kind of pitch that awaits them.

Wasim Akram, running in from ten paces, bowled 12 overs at the start of the innings, eight of them maidens; for the wickets of Daley and Hutton. Rehman took two wickets in successive balls, though not with the same ball. After Campbell played on there followed one of those familiar discussions about the shape of the ball — a Dukes this time — and, immediately it was replaced, Rehman found a beauty for Morris that lifted, and took the 'edge' of a bat offered with no great enthusiasm.

Once again Rehman bowled with skill, moving the ball away from the batsman at a decent pace. At Headingley three years ago it was Paul Reiffel, the medium pacer, who excelled for Australia. Rehman, who is nippy without being "express" pace, can do a similar job for Pakistan later this week — unless

Wasim pulls rank. Pakistan, deliberating over who bats at No 6 at Leeds, will not have learned much from their first innings. Salim Malik, who increasingly looks on the fringe of this team, scratched around for 30 and would now be even more vulnerable had Asif Mujtaba not failed, caught superbly by the diving Hutton at third slip for a duck.

If they want to find room for Saqlain Mushtaq, the promising off-spinner who took two wickets yesterday, it would mean promoting Rashid Latif and bringing Wasim in to bat at No 7. Such a move is worth consideration because it would give them a fifth bowler, and a good one at that, and the top order is in sufficiently good form to cover Malik indiscriminate form.

Rashid can hold a bat all right, as he proved by making 125 in 20 overs with his captain for the seventh wicket. As a result of their efforts the tourists took a two-run lead on

first innings, despite surrendering their last four wickets cheaply. Before he was caught in the gully, Rashid made 55 from 67 balls. Wasim played some classic drives in his innings of 68, which ended when he missed one of the many balls that kept low.

Wood, the bowler, cost Durham 59 runs for it was his miss, at mid-off, that relieved Wasim early in his innings. After the ever-willing Brown, the most successful bowler was Siggers, who arrived from Norfolk recently to help tide them over an injury crisis and has since signed up for the next two seasons.

By rightfall he was batting alongside Roseberry, whose heart must sink when he surveys the wreck of another innings. One man cannot be held responsible for the mess of their season and there is some serious thinking to be done before Durham resume engagements next year.

Lord's beckons for young cricketers eager to take on the world

BY IVO TENNANT

IN the decade since the first ESCA/Bunbury festival was staged with some trepidation on a sodden field in north London, any number of boys have come to the fore. In that initial, eventful week, a 15-year-old of elegant bearing stroked the ball around the wicket in unappealing conditions with an assurance that bespoke class. John Crawley was evidently a Test batsman in the making.

Ten years on, the annual festival is still run with conspicuous success. At Magdalen College's lovely ground in Oxford, numerous boys were looking to show the English Schools' Cricket

Association's selectors they were worthy of inclusion in the England under-15 World Cup. The week culminated in a two-wicket victory by ESCA over the President's XI in the final over.

The Lombard World Challenge, which starts tomorrow, will include teams from Australia, West Indies, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Canada and Holland as well as England. The competition was dreamt up by Ken Lake, the long-standing general secretary of ESCA, and David English, who wrote the Bunbury cartoon books.

The matches will be of 55 overs and will be played under Interna-

tional Cricket Council rules. Entry is free. The final, at Lord's on August 20, will be televised by BSkyB. Ian Botham, whose son, Liam, once played in a Bunbury festival, volunteered to commentate as soon as he heard of the project.

For a 14 or 15-year-old who has not ventured far from home before, or who conceivably has no experience of life beyond his township, to walk through the Long Room at Lord's could be a daunting experience in itself. To contend with a crowd far in excess of anything they have played in front of hitherto could prove terrifying. Or invigorating.

"As a result of our initiative, other countries, such as West



Indies and Australia have re-organised their structure. West Indies have started up an inter-island competition for under-15s," Lake said. "We demand academic excellence at this age, so why not

sporting excellence? The boys will not be allowed to freeze. We shall designate to television who is to be interviewed and they will receive media training. I will be present at each interview."

Gordon Lord, who will coach the England team, has no doubts that they are good enough to win. "There are some fabulously talented 14 and 15-year-olds available," he said. This, it should be added, is the case with some other countries. The Pakistan team will include the nephew of Javed Miandad and the sons of Majid Khan and Abdul Qadir, and there will be much interest in the mixed party from South Africa that will indicate the standard of cricketer they are developing.

"When the idea of a World Cup was mooted, I thought it was pie in the sky," Derek Day, the England manager, said. "Whatever is said about no cricket in schools, this is progress. I think a lot of people will be astounded by the abilities of the boys." Day exemplifies the selfless schoolmaster. He has been team manager of Lancashire under-15s since 1960 and well recalls taking David Lloyd, now the England coach, on the bus to Old Trafford from Accrington. He remembers Michael Atherton, the England captain, as a "nice young man, no different from how he is today". Down the years, Day has noticed how much easier it is to unearth promising batsmen. "Too many young

bowlers do too much work on unsuitable indoor surfaces. Micky Stewart, the overall director of coaching, is looking to make them cut down on this," he said.

Six years ago, as the TCCB's under-19 coach, Lloyd attended the Bunbury festival at Oundle School. "People from abroad often say, 'where do you get your young players from?' I know Australia became concerned that their supply of fast bowlers was drying up and they have targeted 20 boys from the age of 13 to see how they turn out," he said. "I don't think 14 and 15-year-olds are too young for international cricket."

ENGLAND SQUAD: A. London (captain), S. Byng, J. Adams, G. Bridge, C. Burdon, M. Cobby, J. Francis, R. Hunter, R. Jones, S. Murray, M. Powell, B. Stewart, C. Taylor, G. Toff

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Essex pace themselves for the final furlong

August is the month of fatalism and expediency in the county championship. While some clubs passively accept a season has passed them by, others explore all legitimate means of gathering points. Despite draw incentives and rigorous pitch guidelines, many games finish in three days on calculatingly indifferent surfaces.

The pattern is not about to alter, judging by this week's programme. Of the seven fixtures that began last Thursday, four were over by teatime on Saturday, the only surprise among them being a costly defeat for Yorkshire at Eastbourne, where the Sussex eighth-wicket pair shared a decisive century stand.

There were convincing wins for Derbyshire and Somerset, who both still harbour ambitions of place-money, at least. Derbyshire, a keen and revitalised force under Dean Jones, flattened Gloucester-

shire, whose last three games have all been over inside eight sessions, while Somerset won by an innings on a Taunton pitch chosen, just before the toss, for its greenness. Hampshire can hardly complain — they put Somerset in to bat and conceded 541 — but the principle is appropriate to the time of year.

Yet the most significant result, by far, came at Lord's, Middlesex are not the force of old, not even the force of last year — especially now that Mike Gatting has joined their bewildering injury list — but the scale and speed of their demolition by Essex was an indignity to which they are unaccustomed.

This especially applies to Paul Weekes and Mark Ramprakash, neither of whom had been out without scoring in the championship this season until a game in which they each collected a "pair". When this kind of thing happens to your two leading batsmen, the omens are not good. Middlesex, it

can now safely be said, will not be winning the championship this year.

Essex, however, may do. As the only team to challenge Middlesex's enduring standards of the past 20 years, in which they have won six championships to their metropolitan neighbours' seven, they are formidable opponents at this time of year, when so often it is the teams with wisdom and where-withal that emerge from the pack.

The sight of Essex nosing towards the head of the table during August can be compared to Nick Faldo generating a charge at the start of the final round, or to Pat Eddery, having waited with confidence behind a dispute of pace-makers, pulling out to cut down his field in the last furlong.

This championship season is not yet at that stage, which is why Keith Fletcher, the restored eminence of Essex, warned against loose talk after Saturday's win. It was the third in succession for

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

Essex, but Fletcher, who knows a bit about the business of winning titles, is aware that an awful lot can change with six games still to come. "It is a bit too early to start

analysing positions," he said soberly.

Not that this will stop anyone doing just that. This morning, Essex lie handily in fourth place. The three teams above them are Yorkshire, already showing signs of vertigo, Leicestershire, suffering damaging injuries at the worst time, and Surrey, with a long history of excited challenges to overcome. Kent could join them today now that Dean Headley's second hat-trick in successive games has given them realistic hope of overturning a 93-run first-innings deficit against Worcestershire.

Essex face three difficult away trips, to Somerset, Yorkshire and Warwickshire, but if they remain in touch after that, their last two games are at Chelmsford, against Sussex and Glamorgan — and one thing that can be said with certainty about Essex is that they are not chokers. Once involved in a battle, they tend to see it all the way

through. Despite many changes of playing personnel and an inevitable revision of the good-fitting sociability that once set them apart off the field as well as on, the essential spirit of the club is unchanged since 1979, when Fletcher led them to their first title.

Interestingly, the last time they won it was in 1992, immediately prior to Fletcher starting his unhappy spell as manager of England.

The nucleus of that side survives, with Hussain, Illott, Such, the enduring and extraordinary Gooch and the new captain, Prichard. An understated character, he had a chastening first summer at the helm and possibly felt he was never quite in charge at all. However, he is growing into the position and has, at his disposal, some burgeoning talent, exemplified by the gangling 21-year-old, Ashley Cowan.

No young fast bowler this season has impressed so much as

Cowan and, free at last from the injury that interrupted him, he took eight wickets in the win at Lord's. If he stays fit, he will be a treasure way beyond the embers of this season, for Essex have long required a new-ball partner for the willing Illott.

The most compelling reason for believing in Essex's prospects of the title, however, is that they know how to win. It is not just those who have been there before, though there are plenty of them, but the skill with which they have woven men of substance and ambition into their team.

Stuart Law led Queensland for much of their inaugural Sheffield Shield triumph two winters ago, while Ronnie Irani and Paul Grayson, who arrived from Lancashire and Yorkshire respectively, already contribute as much with their attitude as their considerable ability. Seven weeks from now, they may all have something to celebrate.

CRICKET

Carr settles into Lord's life as if to the manor born

By PAT GIBSON

THE cynics, of whom there are many on the county cricket circuit, had a field day when they heard that John Carr, son of Donald, the first secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), alumnus of Repton and Oxford and vice-captain of Middlesex, was retiring to take one of the top jobs at Lord's.

All their perceived prejudices — nepotism, privilege, the old school tie, the Oxbridge mafia and home counties bias — were given an airing. It was not so much jobs for the boys, one of them scoffed, as a job for the boy.

There was one snag. It was hard to think of anyone who was better qualified than Carr to fill the position of "Cricket Operations Manager", the new title for the position left vacant by Tim Lamb's promotion from cricket secretary to chief executive of the TCCB.

The fact is that Carr has been preparing for such a job all his life. He was born in Elm Tree Road, which is virtually the Lord's back garden, in the days when MCC housed its employees there and his father, a former captain of Derbyshire and England, was an assistant secretary. Carr Jr would get home from school at Hampstead, pick up a sandwich and have his tea while watching the last session of play.

At Oxford, he got a degree in

philosophy, politics and economics, all of which should stand him in good stead in cricket's corridors of power, and at the same time began his Middlesex career with the same ambition to play for England as every young player. He never got that far. He started well enough, but, after going through two particularly lean seasons at the end of the Eighties, he decided to retire from the game at the age of 27 and take a job in the City as a management trainee with Barclays Bank.

It was probably the best career move he could have made. Eighteen months of that was enough to convince him that banking was not for him and made him realise the importance of working in a field where he had a genuine

interest. It was back to Middlesex and a new lease of life.

That he was his own man was apparent in the way he defied the purists by adopting his own, idiosyncratic stance, with bat cocked somewhere around his right ear. "I know it wasn't everybody's cup of tea and I wouldn't advocate it for anybody else," he said, "but I devised a method whereby I could scratch out my runs a little bit more consistently than before."

Now, having scratched out thousands of runs in the past five years to put himself in line for the Middlesex captaincy when Mike Gatting calls it a day in the not-too-distant future, he has confirmed his strength of mind by retiring for a second time at 33 to embark on a new career.

"I hope that Middlesex will go for a younger captain because there's been a nice line of succession through Mike Brearley and Mike Gatting and I think it would be a shame if somebody just stepped in for a year or two," he said. "I hope they will make another long-term appointment and that it's another great success story."

As for his new job, he admitted: "I've always envied Tim Lamb doing it, to be honest. It's a pure cricket job, which is very closely related to what's actually happening on the field. I think it's a great opportunity for me."

It is also a great responsibility. Carr's core tasks, like compiling the fixture lists and reviewing the playing conditions, he will take an important role as the soon-to-be-established English Cricket Board sets about integrating all cricket from the playground to the Test arena.

"We believe we've made absolutely the right appointment," Lamb said. "John is the right sort of age, he's got the right sort of background, he's had a lot of experience at all levels of the game, he's helped to set up the Middlesex Cricket Board and he has played first-class cricket. That was not an absolute prerequisite for the job, but it did not half give him an advantage."



Carr: determined

Stewart leads Surrey assault on three peaks

Michael Henderson talks to Alec Stewart, whose county is still chasing three trophies

Alec Stewart may feel like a mountaineer on a ledge of ice, looking up at the mountain peak. "We've done well to get this far," the Surrey captain could tell his players, who are heavily involved in the three competitions yet to be decided. "One more push and we're there." Surrey have been here before, and landed on their hind quarters. Has anything changed?

According to Stewart, yes it has. "We're a more mature side," he said. "We have always had the talent and this year it has been reflected in our results." So far, the remaining six weeks of the season will reveal whether they have acquired the necessary application.

Stewart does not need reminding that when Surrey last won the championship, in 1971, his father, Micky, was the captain. Since then, the club has won only the NatWest Trophy in 1962, and the past couple of years have been particularly unhappy, as rumour chased counter-rumour round the Oval's renovated corridors.

As captain, Stewart has been in the thick of it, and now that the tide is beginning to turn he intends to turn with it. No longer does he want to be regarded as a nearby man, nearly the captain of England and nearly a fulfilled Surrey cricketer. "I've been here since 1981, and when we won the NatWest a year later I was not part of the team," he said. "In my time we have reached another NatWest final, in 1991. Now it is time to go one stage further."

Surrey have made good the loss of Stewart, Thorpe and Lewis to the England team. They lie third in the championship, with two games in hand over Yorkshire, who put them out of the Benson and Hedges Cup at the Oval, one of their few poor performances of the summer. They began yesterday's top of the Sunday League, and they play Essex tomorrow week, in a NatWest Trophy semi-final on their own ground.

"To be top, or near the top, in both leagues is high on perfect," Stewart said. "From now on every game is going to be like a cup final but, if we keep winning, then the others will not catch us. It is so much easier to captain a team when you are playing well."

Two years ago, when Surrey sacked Geoff Arnold as coach without reference to Stewart, there was some doubt whether he would carry on in the job. Those were the dark days of Glyn Woodman, a chief executive who appeared not to understand that a cricket club is primarily about cricket. Members of staff mysteriously left the Oval, and a pall of gloom descended on the place, which is only lifting now.



Stewart is keen to lose his reputation as a nearly man for county and country. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

There was no way I was ever going to leave Surrey," Stewart said, "but when they sacked Geoff I wondered whether it was worth carrying on as captain. This year, I am happy to say, has been the most enjoyable for about four years. People said it was an unhappy place but when you are in the middle of it you don't necessarily notice what is going on."

This year, we have won games that we would not have done before, last week's NatWest victory against Somerset being an example. Thorpe has been outstanding. Lewis has made a big difference and Martin Bicknell has stayed fit. The arrival from Australia of Dave Gilbert, the coach, who is only two years older than Stewart, has also proved beneficial.

The highest advances have been made by Adam Hooliooke and Mark Butcher, who have added significantly to their reputations. Stewart thinks that Butcher, the left-handed opener, will make an England batsman — "whether

or not he starts down the order and works up — and that two Hooliookes may eventually emerge. "I think of them as being like the Waughes. Adam is all hustle and bustle, like Steve Waugh, and Ben is quieter, like Mark. For an 18-year-old, Ben has done a very good job. To bowl eight overs at the death in a Sunday game, as he has done, is quite something."

So there is plenty for Stewart to play for in the next month, and everybody at the Oval knows it. They're due.

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SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Brianne Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

DERBY (third day of four). Derbyshire 236/10 (all out) Gloucestershire 38/1 (seven wickets)

GLoucestershire: First Innings 217 (M G H Windows 76, P A J DeFreitas 5 for 72)

Second Innings

M G H Windows 76, P A J DeFreitas 5 for 72

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-53, 3-69, 4-118, 5-144, 6-152, 7-176, 8-185, 9-185

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GLoucestershire: First Innings 217 (M G H Windows 76, P A J DeFreitas 5 for 72)

Second Innings

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Leicestershire v Northamptonshire

LEICESTERSHIRE (third day of four). Leicestershire 236/10 (all out) Northamptonshire 38/1 (seven wickets)

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Kent v Worcestershire

KENT (third day of four). Kent 236/10 (all out) Worcestershire 38/1 (seven wickets)

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Middlesex v Somerset

MIDDLESEX (third day of four). Middlesex 236/10 (all out) Somerset 38/1 (seven wickets)

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Jennai Cox tries sport aerobics, the dynamic new exercises that mimic the actions of our sporting heroes



A sport aerobics class demonstrates a volleyball-style exercise

A workout with Gazza, Agassi and Linford

While aerobics has still not made it to the Olympics, features from many sports that have, football, tennis and athletics, are now being added to aerobics. It has undergone a drastic transformation since the gentle dance-to-music days of the 1960s.

By introducing steps, boxing gloves, even a swimming pool, aerobics today bears little resemblance to the original class taken by Jackie Sorenson, from the United States, 30 years ago. That class was the first attempt to set to music exercises inspired by the bestselling book, *Aerobics*, by Kenneth Cooper, the US Air Force surgeon, in 1968.

The new "sport aerobics", designed to develop footwork, power, speed, strength and agility, takes exercise into another dimension. Movements from different disciplines are named after heroes of the sports field so that "Gazza" tennis forehands or "Gazza" football headers are woven into the rhythm of the class.

Eight million people regularly attend aerobics classes in the UK and the new version was enthusiastically received when it was launched last October by the Puma Cross Training Group, which promotes aerobics and other sports around the country.

The vigorous format can be adapted as an introduction to a new sport, to improve technique or be used as preparation for someone returning to sport after rest or injury. For those who find aerobics in any form a turn-off, the same principles can be applied in a circuit-type class, which the promoters hope to develop for schools.

The attraction of aerobics for many, especially women, is that it can be done alone. Home videos still sell in their thousands. The warm-up of the class I joined at Pools on the Park in Richmond, Surrey, however, was interactive. Building on the idea of a volleyball game, we jogged in two sets of squares, then jumped and touched hands with someone in the opposite



set, as if leaping to strike a mid-air ball in a match.

Varying leg, arm and body movements are added to a combination of moves which make up the routine of most aerobic classes. In sport aerobics all are made "explosive", according to its developer, Matt Lawrence, aerobics presenter with Puma. So skipping is exaggerated, with knees almost touching the chin, and done in a circle. Sprinters practise similar warm-up exercises and Lawrence has christened this one the "Linford".

The grapevine (three steps to the left with a foot tap, and three to the right) is gradually transformed into a shuffle. A back and forehand tennis swing are added, then a



Matt Lawrence, left, aerobics presenter with the Puma Cross Training Group, takes a class. In sport aerobics, he says, all movements are "explosive" or exaggerated

HOW TO GET STARTED

Sport aerobics workshops will be held on the following dates: Aug 11, Northampton; Aug 31, London; Sept 1, Derby; Sept 21, Liverpool; Sept 22, Oxford; Oct 19, Leeds; Oct 20, Bristol; Nov 2, Aberdeen; Nov 3, Glasgow; Nov 10, Southampton; Nov 16, Newcastle; Nov 17, Manchester. Details from Matt Lawrence on 0181-543 7399.

whole body swivel in a move known as the "Andre". The volleyball drill, ending with a jump and spike, starts off as a simple wide march. Lawrence is working on a "Cantona", which, he says, will "involve a strange kicking action". Many coaches now recognise the benefits of high-intensity aerobics.

Jumping on the spot while swivelling the hips emulates a skiing slalom action. The sprint, hop, skip and jump is known as the "Edwards" and the "Gazza" is three diagonal runs with a pass foot movement in each direction, finishing with a header and a sprint back and forth. Imitation drop-kicks are inspired by badminton and the smash, ball dribbling and jumpshot routine, known as the "Magic", comes from basketball.

Because sport aerobics involves interval training — taking the heartbeat to a higher rate with longer periods of recovery — sweat was dripping after 20 minutes. Any spare energy was exhausted getting the movements right.

While seeming slightly bizarre when done to a fast musical beat, most sports moves are familiar, so not difficult to pick up and should attract more men. Although our class was fairly high-powered, like most it can be toned down for any fitness ability. The oldest and youngest to have tried it to date are 65 and 12 respectively.

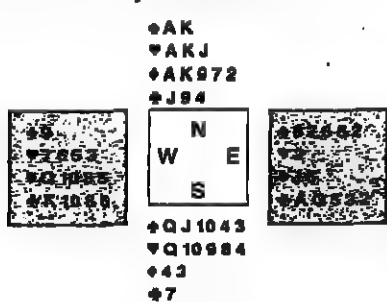
The routine ended with cooling down moves including a golf tee-off, green bowls and throwing darts, by which time we were all out of breath. Dr Cooper, the aerobics originator, still writing on fitness subjects, likes the idea, which he says brings it closer to its original meaning. All aerobics really means is "using oxygen".

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

For the next week I'm trying a new technique. For a card-play problem that concerns one player, the hands he can see are in normal text, and the concealed hands are in shaded boxes. Today the question revolves round the declarer's play — hence the East-West hands are shaded. Using a sort of poor man's Magic Eye technique, try not to look at the East-West hands until the end. I hope it will be easier than the old advice to cover the unseen hands with your thumbs. Setting up the shaded boxes is a right bore for the sub-editors, so unless there is a favourable response from the readers, I won't be going on with it.

Today's hand is from Patrick Jourdain's regular column, "Problem Corner", in *Bridge Magazine*. Six Hearts is an excellent contract for North-South, but that would be unexciting in the play. To make it more difficult, as South you have to play Six Spades. Luckily West leads the five of diamonds rather than a club. If you cash ace and king of spades, West shows out on the second round. How do you continue?



Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: five of diamonds

The successful line when West shows out on the king of spades is to lead the jack of hearts to the queen, and draw trumps, discarding the ace and king of hearts on two of the spades. Thus declarer can now cash the remaining four heart tricks in hand before taking the other top diamond for his twelfth trick.

This type of unblocking manoeuvre is common in problem hands. It is rarer in practical play, but very satisfying if you spot it at the table.

□ The Red Cross London Bridge Tournament in aid of the British Red Cross, London Branch, will be played in three separate heats in September, with the final including reception and dinner on Wednesday October 2. All events are played in the House of Commons. Prizes include Swiss watches and trips to Paris. Entry £100 per person. For further information contact Mrs M. Zangrilli at 0171-235 8577 (phone) or 0171-235 8593 (fax).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PATRILOCAL

- Living with Dad
- Connected to the shinbone
- An all-male pub

RIEDEL

- An Alpine floral skirt
- Glacial bedrock
- A type of telescope

ONONDAGA

- Concealing one's name
- A tropical liana
- An Iroquois

PREVERB

- Prefix to a verb
- To anticipate verbally
- An Etruscan judge

Answers on page 37

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Title defence

Matthew Sadler, the grandmaster from Chatham in Kent, has opened his defence of the British Championship title in Nottingham. The Championships take place from August 4-17 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham. So far, 700 entries have been received.

The favourites to challenge Sadler for his title are the other two grandmasters, Mark Hebden from Leicester and John Emms from Norwich. Over the past year Sadler has notched up a series of international successes including top honours in the tournaments at Ischia and Oberwart. Here is a game which helped him to a share of first prize in the former.

White: Ilya Smirin
Black: Matthew Sadler
Ischia 1996

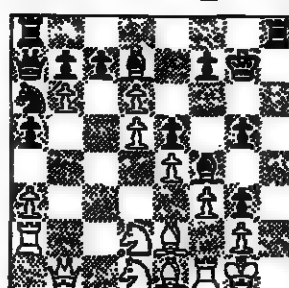
Sicilian Defence

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1 e4 | c5 |
| 2 Nf3 | d6 |
| 3 d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5 Nc3 | a6 |
| 6 Bg3 | e5 |
| 7 Nf3 | Bd7 |
| 8 Bc4 | O-O |
| 9 O-O | Be6 |
| 10 Bb3 | b5 |
| 11 Qe2 | h6 |
| 12 Rfd1 | Nbd7 |
| 13 Nf4 | B4 |
| 14 Na4 | Nee4 |
| 15 Bxe5 | h5 |
| 16 Ng6 | Rf6 |
| 17 Qg4 | e5 |
| 18 B3 | Ng5 |
| 19 Bxg5 | fxg5 |
| 20 Qxg5 | Bd6 |
| 21 c4 | Qd8 |
| 22 Nf4 | e4 |
| 23 h4 | B14 |

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Georgiev - Dimitrov, Bulgaria 1996. Black has gambled a piece to open the dangerous h-file against the white king. How did he now make the most of this?

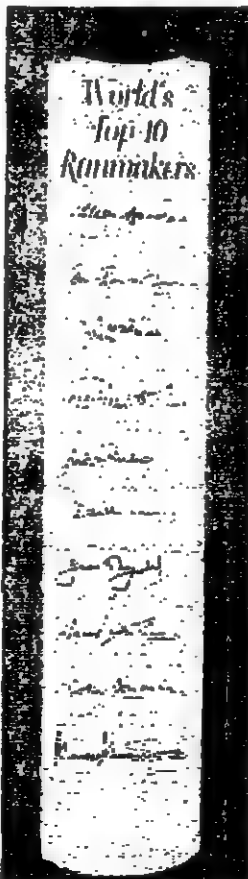


Solution, page 37

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a bat signed by the 10 top runmakers in Test cricket

Plus two tickets for England v Pakistan



Each bat has a numbered certificate of authenticity

Readers of *The Times* have the chance to win a unique item of cricket memorabilia. We have three limited-edition, English willow bats to be won which have been signed by the 10 top runmakers in Test match cricket. The winners will also get two tickets for the England v Pakistan Test on Sunday, August 25 where they will receive their bats from Geoffrey Boycott, who scored his 100th first-class century in the 1977 Headingley Test against Australia.

The World's Top Ten Runmakers bat is personally signed by: Allan Border of Australia who scored 11,174 runs in 156 Tests; Sunil Gavaskar, Ind, 10,122/125; Graham Gooch, Eng, 8,900/118; Javed Miandad Pak, 8,832/124; Vivian Richards, WI, 8,540/121; David Gower, Eng, 8,231/117; Geoffrey Boycott, Eng, 8,114/108; Garfield Sobers, WI, 8,032/93; Colin Cowdrey, Eng, 7,624/114; Gordon Greenidge, WI, 7,558/108. The edition is limited to 900 bats.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win a limited-edition cricket bat and two tickets for The Oval Test collect two of the three tokens which will be published in *The Times* until Wednesday. Send them with the entry form below, and your answer to the competition question, to: *The Times* Top 10 Cricket Bat Competition, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. Closing date is first post Wednesday August 14, 1996. Three winners will be chosen at random from all the correct entries. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.



The prizes will be presented at The Oval Test by Geoffrey Boycott

□ The World's Top Ten Runmakers bat, with display cabinet, is £630 from Harry Hitchcock Limited, 5 Church Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey KT23 3PN, or by credit card on 01372 452 804.

THE TIMES TOP 10 CRICKET BAT COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Day Tel _____

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE FOUR QUESTIONS:

Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

1 15-24 2 25-34 3 35-44

4 45-54 5 55-64 6 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from *The Times* or other companies carefully selected by *Times Newspapers Limited* please tick this box ☐

THE ~~2000~~ TIMES
THE WORLD'S TOP
TEN RUNMAKERS
TOKEN 1

02/11/1996

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: British Airways (Q1), HSBC Holdings, Midland Bank, London & Overseas Freighters (Q1), Pearson, Telewest Communications. Final: Filtronic Comtek, McKay Securities, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, PSIT, Save & Prosper Linked Investment Trust. Economic statistics: UK July provisional M0, UK June housing starts and completions, UK June industrial output, US June leading indicators, US housing completions, US Treasury auction of short-term Treasury bills, German June manufacturing orders.

TOMORROW

Interims: Appleyard Group, Barclays, British Petroleum (Q2), Capital Shopping Centres, Cordiant, CU Environmental Trust, French Property Trust, Kleinwort Overseas Investment Trust, TR Pacific Investment Trust, Yorkshire Chemicals, Zeneca. Final: Benson Group, Williamson Tea Holdings. Economic statistics: UK June new construction orders, UK July cyclical indicators, UK July new car registrations, German July unemployment.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Abbey National, Commercial Union, Foreign & Colonial Enterprise Trust, GKN, Holiday Chemical Holdings, Liberty International Holdings, Metal Bulletin, Transport Development Group, Ward Holdings. Final: Crown Eyeglass. Economic statistics: Bank of England quarterly inflation report, UK August CBI/BSL regional trends survey, US June wholesale inventories, US June consumer credit, US Treasury auction of ten-year notes.

THURSDAY

Interims: Bensons Criepe, Coutts Group, Rank Organisation, Reed Elsevier, Willis Corroon. Final: Break for the Border Group, Westminster Health Care Holdings, Wyko Group. Economic statistics: US weekly jobless claims, Japan June current account.

FRIDAY

Interims: CIA Group, Unilever (Q2). Final: Eve Group. Economic statistics: UK July CBI distributive trades survey, US July producer prices index.

COMPANIES

KAREN ZAGOR

Banking on a buyback at Barclays

BARCLAYS BANK: Speculation that the company, of which Martin Taylor is chief executive, will announce another share buyback programme when it releases its interim results tomorrow has lifted the share price to record levels. Analysts agree that the bank has now seen the worst of its restructuring charges, but there is little consensus about actual earnings at the midway mark. Predictions of pre-tax profits range from about £1.03 billion to about £1.16 billion, with earnings per share ranging from 43.8p to 49p with good contributions from BZW, the investment banking business. In the first half of last year, Barclays had pre-tax profits of £1.13 billion, earnings per share of 42.8p and a net dividend of 11.4p.

BRITISH PETROLEUM: Dividends will be foremost in the minds of investors tomorrow when BP posts its second-quarter results. The dog days of 1992 when BP halved and then froze its dividend seem a long time ago. The dividend has been edging upwards since 1994 and the company has said that it intends to reflect half of underlying earnings. NatWest Securities is looking for a 5p dividend.

Normalised net income is expected to rise 19 per cent to about £670 million in the quarter, from £563 million, with earnings per share advancing to 12p from 10.1p. The company is expected to continue to benefit from strong oil prices. Marketing remains an area of weakness and analysts will be looking to Europe in coming weeks to see whether BP's marketing alliance with Mobil has received EU approval.

HSBC: The parent company of Midland Bank should show the benefits of strong interest income and good cost control when it posts its interim figures today. Pre-tax profits are expected to rise 16 per cent to £2.02 billion from £1.74 billion, with earnings per share rising to 34.1p from 46.1p.

ABBEY NATIONAL: Analysts will be looking for further evidence of recovery in the housing market when Abbey unveils half-



Martin Taylor, chief executive, has seen the Barclays share price reach record levels

year figures on Wednesday. Abbey is more dependent on mortgage earnings than its quoted competitors, but less dependent than many building societies that are planning to float. There may be some erosion of Abbey's mortgage market share, because the bank has not indulged in the same level of mortgage discounting as competitors. Salomon Brothers expects pre-tax profits of £545 million, with earnings per share of 27p.

UNILEVER: The news that BSE can be passed from cows to calves

is not what Unilever needed. In the first quarter, the food and consumer products giant was forced to write off £15 million of beef products. On Friday, analysts will look for second-quarter profits of about £623 million. The latest figures include a £75 million charge. Earnings per share are forecast at 20.3p. This compares with pre-tax profits of £657 million and earnings per share of 21.9p a year ago.

BRITISH AIRWAYS: As BA awaits regulatory approval for its planned partnership with Ameri-

can Airlines, analysts will be looking for a strong improvement in the company's first-quarter earnings today. Pre-tax profits are expected to climb 19 per cent to about £160 million, with earnings per share of 11.7p.

COMMERCIAL UNION: Improvements in France, The Netherlands and possibly the US should be announced on Wednesday, taking the edge off a sharp erosion in underwriting in the UK during the six months to June. Look for pre-tax profits of about £220 million, down 11 per

cent, with earnings per share at 19.2p, down 26 per cent.

REED ELSEVIER: Market expectations centre on the Anglo-Dutch publishing group making a £450 million bid for Blenheim, the exhibitions group.

Meanwhile, analysts are looking for Reed earnings of £408 million, up 10 per cent, with earnings per share of 28.9p when the company reveals its interim earnings on Thursday.

PEARSON: Details of the disposal of Westminster Press will be top of the list of questions analysts hope to have answered when the company posts interim results today. Sharp losses at Mindscape, Pearson's ill-starred computer games company in the US, are expected to contribute to a 53 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to about £24 million. On a normalised basis, profits are projected at £54 million and earnings per share at 4.8p against profits of £60.9 million and earnings per share of 7.8p in the first half of 1995.

ZENECA: Drugs and agrochemicals have been good to Zeneca this year, offsetting spending on developing and launching new products. Tomorrow, UBS will be looking for a 21 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £610 million, with earnings per share of 42.9p and a dividend of 12.5p.

RANK ORGANISATION: Gains from cinema sales and depletion of bingo profits are expected to be reflected in Rank's results on Thursday.

Analysts predict interim pre-tax profits of £157.4 million, with earnings per share of 11.5p. A year earlier, Rank had profits of £158.3 million and earnings of 10.7p. The figures are expected to be overshadowed by the release of an internal strategic review on Thursday.

TELEWEST: Britain's biggest cable company last week lost its chief executive. Today, Hoare Govett expects it to post a £120 million six-month loss. The losses are expected to continue as the company expands its business.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Inflation in the spotlight

The key British economic event this week is on Wednesday — the publication of the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*. This comes a week after the monthly monetary meeting at which Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, apparently opted to leave interest rates unchanged after a disagreement with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, over the quarter-point cut to 5.75 per cent in June.

The markets will be looking carefully at the probability the Bank places on the inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less being met. Its previous report argued that it was marginally more likely than not that the target would be missed on the assumption of 6 per cent base rates. Since then, of course, there has been another cut.

The immediate focus will be on the June figures for industrial production, released today. Manufacturing output is expected to have risen 0.3 per cent, according to the consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International. This would give year-on-year growth of a marginal 0.1 per cent. Industrial production, which includes energy output, is forecast to rise 0.1 per cent, giving a year-on-year growth rate of 1.8 per cent.

Tomorrow sees the publication of construction orders for June and cyclical indicators for July, and, on Friday, the Confederation of British Industry releases its latest distributive trades survey, important as a judgment of the strength of the retail sector.

Given the intense debate about whether the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates when the Federal Open Market Committee meets on August 20, all US economic indicators will be watched with particular interest.

Key statistics include leading indicators and home completions for June, released today, June consumer credit on Wednesday, weekly unemployment claims on Thursday and July producer prices on Friday. The Fed releases its Tanzi Book, a review of the economy, on Wednesday.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Merchant Retail Group, Cordiant, Conrad Riblat. *The Sunday Times:* Avoid Arjo Wiggins; Buy Waterfall, Tracker Network. *Independent on Sunday:* Buy Cordiant, Calgon, Hamlet, Sell Willis Corroon. *The Mail on Sunday:* Buy IES, Action Computer, FKI. *Sunday Express:* Buy Caledonia Investments, Gardner, Hanson; Hold Caspian, Chiroscience, Thorntons.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win flights to Jo'burg with Virgin

14 pairs of tickets worth £30,000 to be won on Virgin's new service to South Africa

The Times, in association with Virgin Atlantic, gives you and a partner the chance to win return flights on Virgin's new daily service direct from London to Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city. We have 14 pairs of return tickets, worth more than £30,000, to give away to this new Virgin Atlantic destination, which launches on October 2.

All you have to do is collect four of the tokens appearing in *The Times* this week, answer the competition question and write ten words on the application form below explaining why you want to win tickets to Johannesburg.

The first-prize winner will receive a pair of Virgin Atlantic Upper Class tickets, two nights at Sabi Sabi, a private game reserve, one night at Lesedi cultural village and four nights at the Karos Indaba hotel, Johannesburg. All meals (except at the Karos Indaba), safaris with an expert guide and transfers are included.

As passengers of Virgin's Upper Class, the first-prize winners will get a chauffeur-driven car to whisk them from home to Heathrow to enjoy all the amenities of the Clubhouse. Once on board, they will enjoy the comfort of a first-class sleeper seat, with 55in of legroom, and a wide variety of award-winning entertainment including a personal armrest TV screen with up to 24 channels including eight movie channels showing the latest releases.

Second prize is one of three pairs of tickets for travel in Premium Economy, the world's best economy service with more space, bigger seats with 38in of legroom, a dedicated check-in service and drinks before take off — all for a fully-



Personal service: Virgin Atlantic Upper Class

flexible economy ticket.

A further ten runners-up will receive a pair of Economy tickets. Our winners will enjoy comfortable and spacious seats, friendly and attentive cabin crew and easy to view seatback TVs offering award-winning entertainment. Exceptional service includes a choice of meals, complimentary drinks and an amenity kit full of useful items for your comfort throughout the flight.

At Sabi Sabi, a private game reserve on the banks of the Sabie River, ecologically and geographically integrated with the world famous Kruger National Park, the winner and his or her companion will be taken on safari deep into the African bush in an open four-wheel-drive vehicle. Lesedi, a Sotho word meaning "light", is a multicultural African village. Our winners will meet the various tribes and enjoy an evening of singing and dancing in the open air. They will stay in a hut (with private facilities) specially set aside for visitors before going to the luxurious Karos Indaba hotel in the elite northern suburbs of Johannesburg. From this country-style hotel with thatched roofs and whitewashed walls, they can set out to explore this fascinating city.

HOW TO ENTER

Attach four tokens from *The Times* to the form below and tick the appropriate answer to the competition question. Then complete the ten-word tie-breaker. Send your entry to: *The Times/Virgin Jo'burg Competition*, Ashentree Court, London EC8S 8NG. The closing date for receipt of entries is Thursday, August 22, 1996.

THE TIMES/VIRGIN JO'BURG COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

When does Virgin Atlantic's new service to Jo'burg launch?

☐ a) September 2 ☐ b) October 2 ☐ c) November 2

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Day Tel _____

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE FOUR QUESTIONS:

Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 1 15-24 ☐ 2 25-34 ☐ 3 35-44
☐ 4 45-54 ☐ 5 55-64 ☐ 6 65+

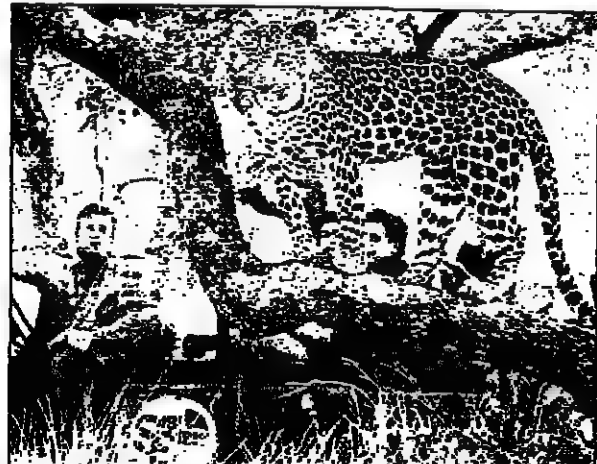
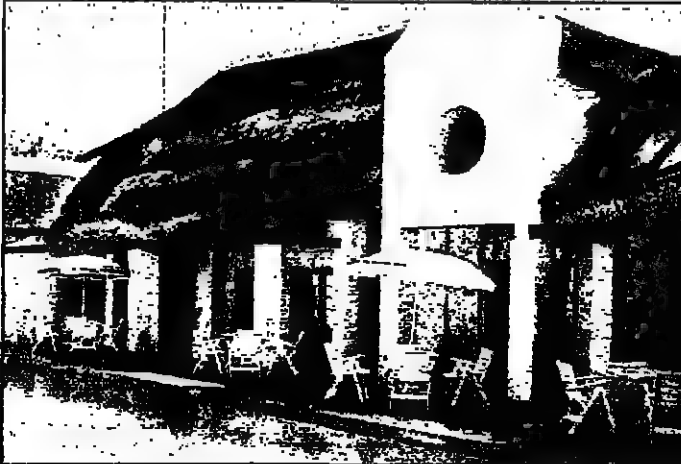
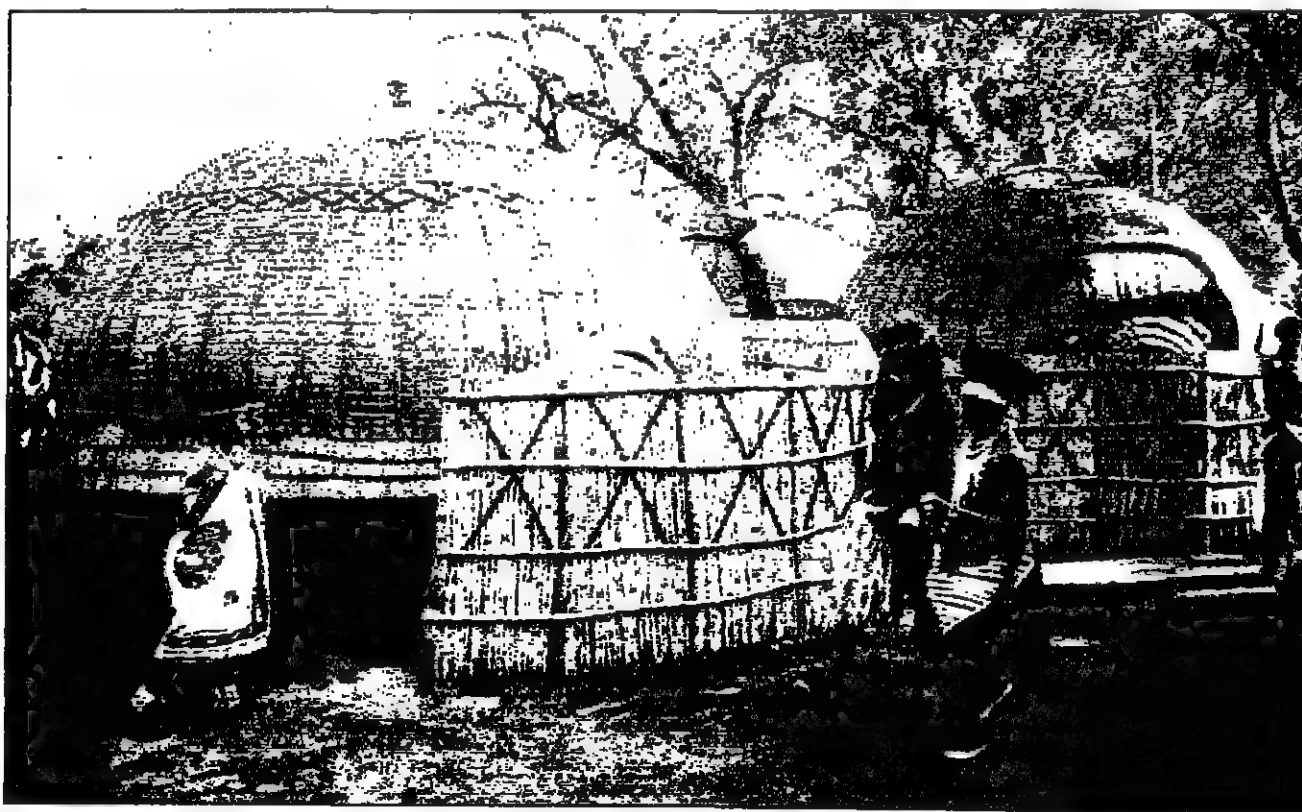
Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

THE TIMES
JO'BURG TOKEN 2
virgin atlantic

If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from *The Times* or other companies carefully selected by Times Newspapers Limited please tick this box ☐



Clockwise from top: the multicultural African village of Lesedi; viewing big game on safari and the Karos Indaba hotel, Johannesburg.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 The prizes will consist of: one first prize of one pair of Upper Class roundtrip tickets; second to fourth prizes of one pair of Premium Economy roundtrip tickets; fifth to tenth prizes of one pair of Economy roundtrip tickets on the London Heathrow-Johannesburg service operated by Virgin Atlantic Airways Limited. The first prize will also include: accommodation for two people provided by Sabi Sabi game reserve, one night's accommodation for two people provided by Lesedi cultural village and four night's accommodation for two people provided by Karos Indaba Hotel. Transfers to Sabi Sabi and Lesedi will also be included in the first prize. 2 Tickets will be valid from October 2, 1996 to October 2, 1997 (inclusive). Actual dates of travel will be subject to availability at the time of booking. Availability for use of prize tickets is limited for each flight. Some flights may already be booked and consequently have no seats available for this offer. The earlier you book, the better the chance you will have of obtaining seats on the flight of your choice. 3 Travel is not permitted between December 18 1996 and January 16 1997 (inclusive) or between March 21 1997 and April 4 1997 (inclusive). 4 Flights must originate in London Heathrow. 5 The prizes are not transferable to another family member or any other named person. There is no cash alternative to the prizes. 6 Entrants must be over 18 years of age and must make in the UK. 7 Tickets are non-transferable to another airline and have no cash value. 8 Pairs of prize winners must travel together on the same flight and on the same date. 9 Chauffeur driven car to and from the airport will be made available to the Upper Class ticket-prize winner only. 10 Rights can only be booked by contacting Virgin Atlantic's Marketing department. All rights offered will be on a confirmed basis. Telephone numbers and office hours will be supplied. 11 Ten working days' booking notice will be required. 12 Runners-up will be responsible for their own accommodation. All prize winners will be responsible for their own visa requirements, passport and insurance requirements. 13 Once a booking has been confirmed no changes and be subject to Virgin Atlantic's published terms and conditions of carriage which are available from any Virgin Atlantic office. 14 Once tickets have been issued Virgin Atlantic shall not be liable for any failure to hostilities, political unrest, riots, civil commotion, inevitable accidents, acts of God or any other circumstance according to Force Majeure. 15 Only original tickets and entry forms permitted. Photocopies are not acceptable. 17 The prizes will be awarded to the first successful entrant. 18 No prize tickets may not be used in conjunction with any other promotional or promotional fare mounted by Virgin Atlantic or any other third party. 19 Employees of News International Newspapers Ltd, Virgin Atlantic, their agents or any company associated with the competition are not eligible to enter the competition. 20 No purchase necessary.

JP 11/11/96

Australian buy for National Power

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

NATIONAL POWER, the electricity generator, yesterday made its first foray into Australia with the acquisition of Hazelwood, one of the country's biggest coal-fired power stations. It is paying £340 million for a 51 per cent stake in a consortium buying the station for A\$2.35 billion (£1.2 billion).

The purchase of the 1,600-mw power station, which National Power is buying in partnership with PacificCorp and Deste Energy, the US utilities, puts it in direct competition with PowerGen, its British rival, which this year led a consortium to buy neighbour-

ing Yallourn power station for A\$2.4 billion.

Max Herbert, National Power's Asia-Pacific director, said yesterday: "Our aim is to have Hazelwood as a world-class operation playing an increasingly important part in the emerging national electricity market. We're planning a major capital expenditure programme at Hazelwood to maximise operating efficiencies and upgrade environmental performance."

The sale of the Hazelwood power station, which is east of Melbourne and comes with its own brown coal mine and a business that makes brown coal products, marks the latest stage of the State Government of Victoria's successful privatisation of its electricity industry. It has been closely modelled on the UK's electricity privatisation programme, and has so far included five distribution companies and two power stations, raising A\$3.6 billion so far, more than twice as much as analysts initially expected, with much of the interest coming from overseas utilities.

A further three power stations are still to be sold and Mr Herbert yesterday said the consortium would seek other investment opportunities in the Australian power industry as they become available.

As part of the shake-up of the industry, the state's power stations are to be allowed to compete directly with each other in the supply of wholesale electricity within the state and outside it.

Analysts say, however, that National Power and PowerGen will have their work cut out over the next few years as well as copying the way the UK electricity industry was sold off. Victoria's version will also copy the way it is run, with electricity companies required to achieve reductions in electricity prices to residential and small business customers of 16 per cent and 28 per cent in real terms respectively by 2000. Prices will be reviewed in five years' time.



Sculptor Eamonn Hughes, right, oversees installation of a new work at KPMG's HQ

Forensic hunt at KPMG

BY JASON NISSE

KPMG, the accountancy firm, has launched a novel recruitment drive to attract non-accountants to work for it.

The firm wants to recruit up to a dozen former policemen, tax investigators or even journalists for its forensic accounting division, which largely investigates frauds and pro-

vides support for legal actions. It has published a series of adverts in the national and specialist press targeted at anybody but accountants and has seen a strong response.

Philip Haberman, a forensic accounting partner at KPMG, said: "We are widening our staff base partly because accountants tend not to be as sceptical as they could

be and partly because other people have a different way of looking at things." The division has expanded from two people and a part-time partner in 1990 to an operation with more than 100 staff.

In a separate move, KPMG says Grant Thornton will be auditors for its audit business, which is being spun off as a separate limited company.

Allders in talks with Owen Owen

Allders, the department stores group, said it was in talks that may lead to it buying a number of stores from Owen Owen, the retail group run by Philip Green, the former Amber Day chief, for about £23 million.

It is believed to be targeting up to ten stores, including those in Leeds, Coventry, Oxford, Ipswich and Slough. After the sale of Allders' international tax and duty-free business to Swissair last month for £160 million, Allders has more than £100 million cash and has said it wants to use some of it to expand its department store business. It still intends to return a significant amount of the cash, expected to be up to half, to shareholders.

TI in £15m deal

TI Group, the engineering company, will start its proposed acquisition spree this morning with a £15.5 million deal to buy a Brazilian refrigeration components business from Alcan Aluminium of Canada. TI said the purchase would enable it to supply a full range of fluid carrying systems through its Bundy International fluid carrying systems subsidiary.

Laporte silent

Laporte, the chemicals group, declined to comment on weekend reports that it has put its adhesives and sealants business, best known for making Evostik, up for sale with a price tag of £300 million. The company bought much of the division three years ago when it bid £181 million for Evode.

Michot rises

Yves Michot was yesterday appointed to the board of Aerospaciale, the French state aerospace group, paving the way for him to be named chairman this week. M. Michot, currently number two at Aerospaciale, is replacing Louis Gallois, who became boss of SNCF state railways last month.

Stet sell-off

Italian ministers are expected to meet tomorrow to lay down guidelines for the proposed sell-off of Stet, Italy's telecommunications group. The ministers are expected to recommend the immediate private sale of at least four Stet subsidiaries, with flotation of the core group in February or March 1997.

Why healthy scepticism is necessary

Will things be different this time? That is the key question facing financial markets at the moment. Alan Greenspan at the Federal Reserve is wondering whether the soft data reported last week is proof that the US economy will slow down of its own accord without the need for a rate rise, or whether the tightness of the labour market will push up wages. In the UK, gilt investors wonder whether wage pressures will return as Britain's economy accelerates. And there is an even more pertinent question — would a Labour government be different this time?

The US bond market now believes that the automatic stabilisers will generate a slow-down. Most notably there is the impact of the rise in long-term interest rates on the housing market, but also the strengthening in the dollar since mid-1995 should slow export growth. In contrast, UK mortgage rates are set in relation to base rates, making the market mechanism less important and monetary policy more so. The political background makes a pre-emptive rate rise unlikely. Neither is it clear that the pound will rise sufficiently before the general election to cool the economy.

The US housing market has shown some signs of a slow-down, but the UK housing recovery has just started. Indeed, as far as UK housing is concerned it looks as if history may be about to repeat itself. At the end of the 1980s we convinced ourselves that there never would be another housing boom, that people would remember their misfortunes and the authorities would not allow house prices to surge again. Recent developments are casting doubts on these assumptions. Anecdotal stories suggest a return of gasping building societies are bending over backwards to find new borrowers, and the Government would welcome a housing boom to revive the "feel-good" factor.

The housing boom in the 1980s was boosted by deregulation in the banking sector; this may have been a one-off, but building society windfalls are another type of stimulus. In the labour market, too, it has been argued that things are different. Nevertheless, the signs of a tightening labour market continue to grow; vacancies are nearly as high as in 1988; hours worked are back up to 1988 levels; and female unemployment is actually much lower than in 1988. Worries about redundancy will gradually be alleviated, firms will have to pay more to attract workers, and firms will be forced to pay more to keep workers because company loyalty has been destroyed by downsizing. In the UK, few

would doubt that at some point measures will be needed to slow growth. Any delay in reacting will increase the risk that inflation will rise and that the tightening will then need to be more severe. The June cut in base rates came against the advice of the Governor of the Bank of England and the Bank will probably sound a louder warning in its *Inflation Report* to be published on Wednesday, but it will fall on deaf ears. If in the US the danger is that the Fed could fall "behind the curve", in the UK monetary policy is in danger of being lapped.

The gilt market may be able to console itself with the thought that economic recovery will make it easier to improve public finances. A new government could raise taxes which would offset the double benefit of slowing consumer spending and reducing the PSBR. However, before that happens, Mr Clarke is likely to cut taxes this autumn.

to cut taxes this autumn. Labour will probably promise to maintain these tax cuts. It will also be difficult for the new government to tighten fiscal policy quickly, leaving monetary policy to bear the brunt of any tightening for quite some time.

Most economists can talk at length about why UK inflation has improved fundamentally. But gilt investors are right to maintain a healthy scepticism when told things have changed permanently. Maybe things will be different this time, but the risks of overheating and a pick-up in inflation are rising, and gilts are not a safe investment.

GLENN DAVIES
Credit Lyonnais

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar

1.5425 (-0.0128)
German mark
2.2795 (-0.0236)
Exchange Index
84.1 (-0.9)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

2772.4 (+72.6)
FT-SE 100
3770.6 (+97.3)
New York Dow Jones
5679.83 (+206.77)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
20940.41 (-184.49)

Consumers 'coming to rescue'

MANUFACTURING is set to remain in the doldrums but services sectors are accelerating as consumer demand rises, according to the latest report from Oxford Economic Forecasting (Janet Bush writes). Oxford expects manufacturing to grow 0.4 per cent in 1996 and although the consumer should come to the rescue, there are considerable risks to economic growth.

Oxford notes manufacturing has fallen in each of the last two quarters and is still on a downward trend. The latest survey from the CBI showed orderbooks were continuing to weaken and output expectations were becoming less optimistic.

Oxford argues that the quarter-point cut in base rates to 5.75 per cent in June was justified and suggests the risks to activity may justify another cut. However, it expressed concern that the Chancellor may be reluctant to raise rates later this year if growth became too strong.

Hays ready to increase bid

HAYS, the business services group led by Ronnie Frost, is expected to make an increased £1.1 billion bid for Christian Salvesen, the distribution and power supplies company, at about 390p a share (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Salvesen last week rejected

Hays's 370p first bid as inadequate but said it would consider a "significantly improved proposal". Salvesen management, led by Chris Masters, has declined Hays's repeated requests for meetings. Analysts believe Salvesen might hold out for 400p, but argue that at that level Hays is

in danger of overpaying. Hays is understood to be unwilling to launch a hostile bid if its 390p proposal is rejected.

Sources close to Hays denied weekend reports that Mr Frost has been in touch with members of the Salvesen family, 200 of whom control 38 per cent of the company.

THE Alternative Investment Market reached its double century on Friday as SCI Entertainment, a CD-ROM games producer, became the 200th company to trade on the exchange, reaching a 7p premium on its 149p issue price.

SCI launched into a quiet but stable market. After the turbulence of the preceding 21 days, AIM's five new

Double century achieved in style

issues last week all attracted premiums. David Abraham, a market-maker at Winterflood Securities, said this was thanks to both the quality of the new issues and their cheap prices. He added that other price movements

during the week were steady, with very few violent or erratic changes.

Network Technology, a computer manufacturer placed at 144p on Tuesday, was the week's highest climber. The shares shot up 29p to

143p by the end of the week. Hit Entertainment, the cartoon merchandising group, was also placed on Tuesday and saw its shares go from 163p to 159p.

DBS Management is to leave AIM for the main

exchange, becoming the second company to succeed in using AIM as a stepway to a full listing. Placed in July last at 160p, the company's shares are now 365p, which has lifted its market value from £10.8 million to £26 million in 13 months. As a financial services company, its shares do not qualify for the tax relief available to other AIM stocks, giving it nothing to lose from the move up. Of AIM's 200 stocks, more than 70 finished the week valued at £20 million or more.

FRASER NELSON

1996	Low	High	Mid cap	Price	Why	Yld	P/E	1996	Low	High	Mid cap	Price	Why	Yld	P/E
134	132	133.30	AFA Systems	133	...	5.5	16.0	138	136	137.00	Fiberlink	137	...	4	...
135	134	135.00	AMCO Corp	134	...	...	...	139	138	139.00	Fielders	139	...	...	...
78	72	15.40	AMC Int'l Pub	72	...	...	...	260	257	257.77	Fin Public	245	...	...	...
58	58	2.37	Abacus Recruit	43	...	...	...	188	185	185.00	Fluor	185	...	...	...
181	115	24.00	Active Imaging	131	...	...	...	183	183	34.50	First Ind	170	...	...	...
210	122	30.00	A de Guey	205	...	3.7	16.0	245	245	18.00	Fluor	205	...	1.6	...
204	74	14.40	African Gold	14	...	...	31.3	343	263	7.39	Floral SI	280	...	10.4	13.1
213	21	5.87	Albionville & B	19	...	...	...	183	136	16.00	Forman	180	...	...	...
54	53	7.78	Alloy	45	...	...	...	354	14	12.00	Freemans	137	...	...	...
24	11	3.16	Alpha Online	12	...	...	...	143	93	8.16	Forman	138	...	2.3	12.0
480	380	48.00	Ann SI Brewery	480	...	4.8	12.9	12	12	34.90	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
585	585	5.94	Ann SI Cy Pl	585	...	10	8.2	12	12	22.30	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
121	48	37.20	Arbore	51	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
91	33	1.38	Arbore	31	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
131	69	22.20	Ask Central	138	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
145	122	1.08	Chelney Tech	130	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
67	54	40.40	BATM Adv Comm	130	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
28	17	7.08	Ballymore	52	...	...	40.4	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
46	38	5.65	Bark Hides	22	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
140	138	2.37	Beltone	38	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
70	70	0.99	Bowman Lvs Cy Pl	145	...	3.0	7.1	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
70	41	8.10	Branciforte	123	...	1.9	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
250	240	13.60	Brookbank	123	...	...	11.6	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
124	116	1.04	CA Coastal Hides	123	...	...	7.2	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
130	116	0.13	CCI Hides	123	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
110	110	0.13	CCI Founder Shs	123	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
75	35	7.76	Calendula Int	65	...	...	7.9	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
41	32	2.33	Capital & Wsh	29	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
98	98	12.50	Cardinal	38	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
108	91	9.43	Cardinal Ship	38	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
72	58	3.17	Cassidy Bros	38	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
19	16	6.30	Celebrated Group	19	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
525	550	75.00	Celtic	225	...	1000	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
5275	6450	16.80	Celtic PI Shs	121	...	2.8	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
104	109	1.09	Ci Comm(V)	118	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
100	53	7.38	Charwell Int	88	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
185	173	19.00	Chelney Tech	175	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
140	110	21.80	Chelney Tech	131	...	...	11.2	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
110	110	0.99	Chen Homes	110	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
33	28	12.90	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
19	15	12.00	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
100	100	0.25	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
100	100	0.25	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
225	225	0.17	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
44	37	8.80	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
83	83	15.00	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
109	57	3.07	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
63	48	21.70	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
37	152	27.50	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
75	61	3.30	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
170	80	90.70	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
17	11	2.17	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
375	305	34.40	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
85	78	12.50	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
77	60	13.10	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
137	48	7.42	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
135	148	31.10	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
200	85	58.70	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	12	8	5.36	Gander Hops	12	...	...	...
118	61	21.00	Chelney Tech	100	...	...	...	1							

Any visit to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is worth missing. Directors of British Telecom agonised long before finally caving in to demands from its regulator and avoiding an appearance before this fickle corporate Nero. Well they might. BT had as much to fear from the tribunal as from giving Ofel unfettered powers, on behalf of competitors, to tell it what to do and what not to do.

Company and regulator are stuck with an uncomfortable fact. BT dominates most of its markets. Unless its management sinks into incompetence or the state agency sequesters its shareholders' property rights, it will surely continue to do so. When natural private monopolies are inherited, or built up by an innovator gaining dominance in a new market, that is unavoidable.

Common sense suggests we should avoid creating monopoly power artificially via mergers, without good reason. Big fish will abuse their power, as modern business practice demands, or have to be regulated by rules, undertakings and bureaucratic surveillance. As regulators will testify, that is a poor substitute for a competitive market. Why then do the Government and the Office of Fair Trading seem so keen to fall into this trap?

Every other week, some market-grabbing takeover, often in the bus trade, is waved through in exchange for a sheaf of solemn signed paper undertakings that pledge management to deny its basic business inst-

incts. John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, is becoming a Neville Chamberlain wave-alike. Like his well-meaning model, he is surely storing up trouble for customers or competitors.

When Parliament changed the rules on merger-vetting, encouraging deals to be struck at the OFT in lieu of a reference to the MMC, it aimed to save time in straight-forward cases rather than make it easier to create monopolies. Granada's bid for Forte, for example, aimed to take Granada into hotels rather than to increase the combined group's monopoly power. Sorting out the incidental overlap of the two companies' motorway service areas was therefore a suitable case for plea-bargaining at the OFT.

Where the main object or effect of a merger is to strengthen market power, the fast track approach is harder to justify. This policy is about to face two stern tests.

Last week Stagecoach, a regular client of the competition authorities in its bus business and now a train operator, made an agreed offer for one of the three rolling stock companies carefully separated out by the Government in its costly

Competition is worth more than promises



GRAHAM SEAL, CHAIRMAN OF STAGECOACH

attempt to create a new "competitive" railway market. Stagecoach wants to bid for all the remaining train service franchises, so it is clearly intent on building as commanding a presence in railways as it has worked for in buses. The bid was duly accompanied by a written offer to the OFT, promising not to indulge in a series of potential anti-competitive practices.

Bass, the brewing and leisure group, has an even more daring proposition. It has spent months trying to concoct a cocktail of minor sales and promises that might persuade the OFT and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to allow it to gain control of between 36

and 40 per cent of the beer market. The object is to avoid the MMC inquiring whether its acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley is in the public interest.

These efforts are understandable, but deserve to fail. To start with, both Stagecoach and Bass have a history of gregarious anti-competitive behaviour. Only last year, the MMC reported that Stagecoach's treatment of a now-deceased bus competitor was, not unusually for the industry, "predatory, deplorable and against the public interest".

Bass, in common with most big brewers, has long relied on tied outlets and restrictive trading contracts to sell its beer. The MMC expended much misplaced effort trying to reform the industry and make it compete for consumers' favours. In response, big brewers have sought to bolster monopolistic power through mergers.

If these deals go through, the rail regulator and OFT beer-watchers will be on overtime for years. They may soon be armed with laws giving the authorities the sort of sweeping powers against anti-competitive behaviour that Ofel has won from BT. Such rules are inherently unsatis-

factory. There is no clear line between normal, healthy aggressive attempts to outsmart the competition and what may be judged illegal. Loyalty bonuses, quantity discounts, packaging of services or sole supply deals may be acceptable practice for a company breaking into a market but unacceptable for one with a big market share. Indeed, companies may find that success turns competitive virtues into anti-competitive vices. That is bad law.

In merger policy, promises are therefore no match for the reality of competition. A scheme to boost market power deserves to be vetoed against the public interest test applied by the MMC. If management begrudges the effort to argue its case and endure a few months of uncertainty, it should not attempt such a merger in the first place. If the City sees the futility of an MMC inquiry as "blocking" a takeover, that is just one more case of myopia frustrating business strategy.

The Labour Party wants to change competition rules so that they presume mergers are guilty rather than innocent and oblige their promoters to justify them in the public interest. This is a long-standing policy so it may be jettisoned. If not, there is much to be said for it. There would, however, be one vital *quid pro quo* for any presumption against mergers. When the public interest balance is struck for when Ofel makes its rulings, raising returns to shareholders should itself count as a powerful public benefit.

The market for soft drinks with a kick is booming, says Martin Waller

Battle to be top of the alco-pops

Take a few quarts of industrial alcohol — ethyl, not methyl, we wouldn't want any unfortunate side-effects. Add water (tap will do), sugar, fruit, herbs and spices, flavourings, assorted E numbers and the contents of that Body Shop gift basket you haven't opened since Christmas. Stir well.

You have just created this summer's best-selling cocktail, your contribution to a market worth upwards of £250 million and growing faster than the statistics can count. Participants prefer the term alcoholic carbonates, but they are best known as alco-pops.

If half a decade ago you had told one of the big drinks groups they would be falling over themselves to create sweet, fizzy soft drinks spiked with alcohol and worryingly attractive to under-age drinkers, they would never have believed you. They would never have believed you last summer either, in spite of the arrival from Australia of an alcoholic lemonade called Two Dogs and the launch by Bass of the strangely similar Hooch.

Industry insiders say there are currently 89 alco-pops on the market, including the brand leaders and the shelves of knock-off imitations at every big supermarket. That figure is certainly wrong, because since the last census more will have arrived.



Young drinkers enjoying Hooch, Bass's contribution to the market, with annual sales of about £200 million

Stats MR, the independent research consultant, says the alco-pops market, at the retail level, is worth £250 million. This figure is also wrong. Hooch sales are about £200 million a year, Bass maintains, which would give it 80 per cent of that estimate. Merrydown, the original importer and now brewer of Two

Dogs, does not release sales figures but says it has 25 per cent. There is no reason to disbelieve either company — the total is simply growing too fast to measure.

The industry is desperate to deny that the product is aimed at under-age drinkers, serving as a teenage bridge between fizzy pop and the hard stuff — a role traditionally filled by cider, which has a market of £1 billion. But the packaging is suspiciously close to soft drinks such as Snapple and Oasis. A recently launched range of "alcoholic sellers" comes in bottles deliberately reminiscent of soft drinks from 1950s America.

If it is true the drinks mainly attract less experienced drinkers, then their future would seem secure. "Is it here to stay?" ponders one City analyst. "There's clearly a large element of fashionability attached to Hooch and some of the other products. Plus, it's partly a function of timing, launching a product such as this in very good weather of the sort we have seen last summer and in May and June this year. The one thing they won't tell us is how well they sell at Christmas."

He accepts that there will have to be an almighty crash eventually, and a culling of the insane number of brands, as happened in the premium lager and cider markets that were once showing similar growth. But thereafter the survivors will, like Disney videos, find a new market arriving year after year, even if they will each have to work hard to maintain their place.

"They are going to be around in one guise or another even if the brands aren't," says the analyst. "These are fashion-driven products for younger consumers, among whom it's more difficult to maintain brand loyalty."

Earlier this year, the industry's own trade body, the Portman Group, introduced a voluntary code that required the dropping of words such as "lemonade" in favour of "lemon brew", for example, a move anticipated by the makers of Hooch and Two Dogs. Any link with under-age drinking will never be proven.

What is clear is that drinks with names like "Stunn" and "Blitz" are aimed at consumers more concerned with their effect than their taste. They sell in 330ml bottles, a convenient size also favoured by lagers and ciders. The alcoholic content is the same, varying from 4 per cent, at which level, and below, less tax is payable, up to 5.5 per cent, comparable with Pils lagers. The strongest ciders, such as Diamond White, are more than 8 per cent, which is into the Tennants Extra league.

"It's a market where the barriers to entry are very low. There's not much advertising spent on these products," the City analyst points out. Not much is needed. Three quarters of brewing output goes to the own-trade, and the brewers all have their own tied estate through which their respective product can be funnelled. But again, loyalty is limited. "Will people switch pubs because it does or doesn't sell Hooch? Clearly not," he adds.

None of the consumers of this new product have much idea what they are drinking. There are two sorts of alco-pops, best categorised as brews and concoctions. Brews, the two market leaders and a few others, start with a yeast-fermented fruit base to create the alcohol. With Two Dogs, it

really is lemons, a reflection of the drink's history — it was created by an Australian micro-brewer as a way of using up his neighbour's surplus lemon crop. Given the awfulness of most Australian beers, its subsequent success Down Under is no surprise.

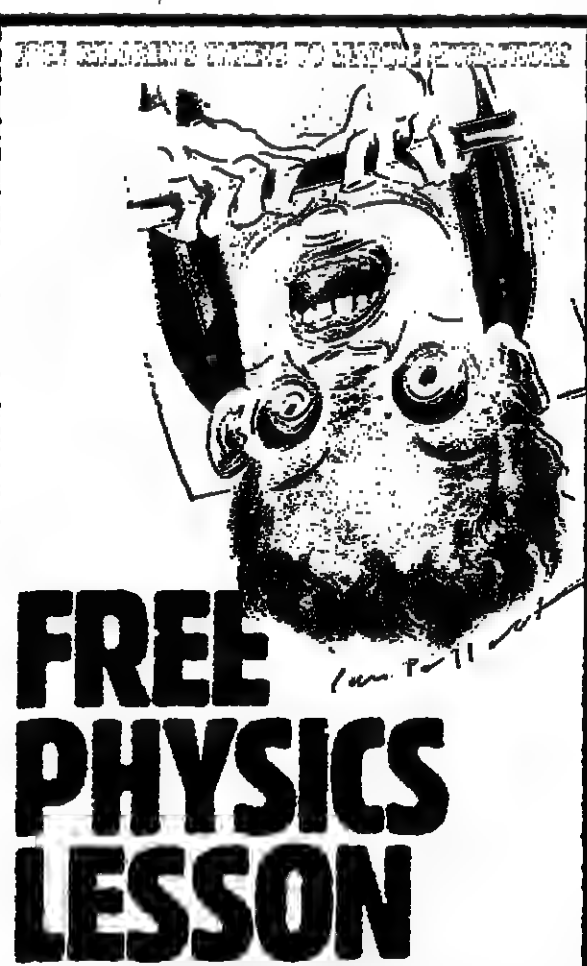
Both brands then add water, sugar, fruit juice and plant extracts. The other method is to produce the alcohol from sugar and yeast alone, no fruit at all, and then add the above. The latest rage is for "natural" ethnic ingredients — guarana, a berry "used by Amazonians to combat fatigue", it says here, is a favourite. This is where your Body Shop basket comes in.

These are the concoctions. Within them there is a hair-line line between using alcohol made from sugar and yeast, as Bass does with its new Red cider featuring yet more guarana, and bringing in truckloads of the stuff from industrial producers. No one admits to doing this, or knowing anyone who does, but they exist. Richard Purdy, chairman of Merrydown, comments: "We don't spend an awful lot of time... finding out what our competitors are doing." A Bass spokeswoman echoes him: "I don't think we examine what other people do in that level of detail."

But Mr Purdy admits he would be surprised if his creations do not exist. "It's perfectly legitimate. There's nothing to say you can't do that — what would be illegal would be to pursue that method and then describe it as a fermented product."

The key, therefore, is the word "brewed" on the label. This means some method vaguely analogous with traditional brewing skills, involving fruit, has been used at some stage, which may be a comfort to some.

If the word is lacking, you are probably drinking a concoction. As any home brewer knows, you can make alcohol out of anything containing sugar or starch. The potable alcohol forming the base of the latest alco-pop may have started its life in a potato or sugar beet field. The only limits are human imagination — and the ever-widening boundaries of human taste.



FREE PHYSICS LESSON

Starting on 12th July, *The Times Educational Supplement* will be publishing special vouchers every week for 8 weeks. Each voucher entitles a child to free admission to a leading British attraction, provided they are accompanied by a paying adult.

There are 100 attractions to choose from. Your children can experiment with the physics of forces on the rollercoaster at Thorpe Park. Or they can come face to face with prehistory at Dinosaur World in Clwyd. You can even step aboard a genuine sailing brig at the Ulster American Folk Park.

So don't take a summer holiday from *The TES*. Take some days out with our children's free admission vouchers.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
AT YOUR NEWSAGENT EVERY FRIDAY

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Uphill battle for Unesco cash

BAD NEWS awaits Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, on his return from his fortnight's holiday, climbing in France with his four children. Two leading British firms have already refused his plea to contribute £11 million to allow Britain to rejoin Unesco, the UN body covering education, scientific and cultural work.

In a letter to firms, including BT, British Aerospace, ICI and Shell, MacShane dismisses the Foreign Office's fight with the Education Department over whose budget should pay for Unesco re-entry. He writes: "This is rather childish, and I hope that private finance might be willing to help the Government out of a hole."

Highway patrol

DAVID CROSSLAND, chairman of Airtours, needs his wife to keep him in check. In the *Director* magazine, he cites his greatest extravagance as the house in Pacific Palisades, California, he bought at a "giveaway" price. "I have been known to go there for the weekend — which my wife, Anne, thinks is crazy," he admits. "One day I would quite like a Harley-Davidson motorbike so I can go up and down the Pacific Coast highway — but Anne says I can't have one until I retire."

Red a dare

ORANGE, the telecommunications giant, has turned down the chance to transform a Nomura trader into a punk and dye his hair the compa-



Crossland: denied a Harley

ny's trademark colour. Plans to give 39-year-old Clive Richmond a mohican, to raise money for the Bobath Centre, a clinic for children with cerebral palsy, were shelved at the eleventh hour. So far, £15,000 has been raised, and

the securities firm is deep in talks with a "high-flying" company that hopes to colour Richmond's coiffure red.

Doctors' order

If you want to get ahead, you should learn to wield a poodle brush rather than a scalpel. A survey in *September's Esquire* magazine, shows dog groomers on £16,000, piano tuners on £23,000 and tube drivers on £25,000, putting them ahead of many doctors and lecturers. Newly qualified doctors start under £15,000 and registrars can earn as little as £20,500, while university lecturers start on £13,100. If you want really big money, go for the law: top QCs are the highest paid professionals with up to £500,000.

MORAG PRESTON

RADIO CHOICE

Nasty work in the attic

The Donahue Sisters. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

The three sisters in Geraldine Aron's dark play, meeting after a long separation, are clearly not going to be content with exchanging tales of woe about their married lives. And, sure enough, as thunder begins to rumble, and it starts to rain, and Anthea Gomez's spooky music becomes even more sinister, the siblings make preparations to re-enact in their old attic a nasty episode from childhood. The fact that they treat it as a game makes it more shocking, not less. Frances Tomelty, Anny Tobin and Maureen O'Brien play the sisters. The play arrives bearing prizes won in drama festivals, and director Sue Wilson has done it proud on radio.

Jazz Notes. Radio 3, 12.30am. First Bass. Radio 3, 4.30pm.

Two recommended jazz programmes. *Jazz Notes* packs into 30 minutes saxophonist Barbara Thompson's long lifetime of composing and performing. Her classical training shows in everything she does. What is beyond belief is that she had no jazz training. Incidentally, the BBC Proms have not acknowledged her existence, and I urge the Proms supreme, Radio 3 Controller Nicholas Kenyon, to listen to *Jazz Notes* tonight to discover what he has missed. *First Bass* continues with Alyn Shipton prompting the semi-legendary bassist Ray Brown to recall his years with Dizzy Gillespie. Shipton sounds as surprised as I was to hear Brown disclose that he was once sacked by Gillespie. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00
Kevin Greening 11.30 Radio 1 Road-
show, live from Marine Sands in Margate
12.30pm Lisa 1.30pm 2.00 Nicky
Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00
Evening Session 9.00 John Peel's
Classic Rock 1 Sessions, with tracks
from Paul Weller, Suede and Ian
McEwan and Stereolab 7/8 10.00
Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturge
4.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30
Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce
11.30am Young 1.30pm Just Saxes
3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00
Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Matlock
Lynch 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00
Huntley Lytton 10.00 Jazz Scene
10.30 The Jazzmen 12.00am Sue
McGarry 3.00 Alan Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The
Breakfast Programme and at 6.55, 7.55
and 8.55 The Magsaysay
12.00 Midday with Mark 2.05 Ruscoe on
Five, incl at 3.05 Aqueduct 4.00 Nation-
wide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News
7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports
Bulletin 7.25 Games that Changed
Football. A look at the matches that have
changed the way the game is played
8.05 Football on Sport 8.05
Sporttrack 9.30 On the Job, with Lesley
Curran 10.05 News Talk, with Mike
Baker 11.00 Night Extra, with Valerie
Sardeson 12.00am Other Side of
Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

11.00am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chil-
holm 1.00pm Anna Rasmussen 3.00
Tommy Boyd 6.00 Peter Deasy 7.00
Sports Zone 10.00 James White
1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the Hour.
6.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe
Today 7.05 Olympic Sportsworld 7.30
Any Keshaw 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30
The Vintage Chart Show 9.15 Good
Lookers 9.45 Music Through Stained
Glass 10.05 Business 10.15 Anything
Goes 10.45 Sportsworld 11.00 Omnibus
11.45 Off the Shelf 12.30pm Omnibus
1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Andy Kershaw
3.05 Outlook 3.30 John Peel 4.05
Sports Report 4.15 BBC English 4.30
News in German 5.30 Business 5.45
Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25
Take Five 6.30 News in German 7.30
Brain of Britain 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Words
of Faith 9.30 Multitrack 10.05 Business
10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Legal Rights,
Legal Wrongs 10.45 The World of
Computers 11.30 World Today 11.45
Sport 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Global
News 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 Record
Concerns 1.45 Britain Today 2.30
Outlook 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today
Meridian 4.45 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey
8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susan
Simons 2.00pm Concerto, Strauss
(Oboe Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crook 6.00
Newsnight 6.30 Sports, Boisdale
nets for flute and harp 7.00 Celebrity
Chorus (i) 8.00 Evening Concert, Leo-
pold Mozart (Toy Symphony, Children's
Symphony, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(String Quartet in D), Leopold Mozart
(Hom Concerto in D; Pastoral Wedding;
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Symphony
No 40 in minor 10.00 Michael Meggan
1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 8.00 Richard
Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm
Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte
(FM) / Robin Barrie (AM) 10.00 Mark
Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore.
Includes Elgar (Wend of
Youth Suite No 1); Tchaikovsky
(Overture-Suite in B flat
Ballet); Strauss
(Pommes in F); Handel
(Sinfonia from Saul); Aranga
(Overture: Los senecio-
tales); Respighi (Brazilian
Impressions)
9.00 Morning Collection with
Paul Gambaccini. Includes
Ravel (Rhapsodie espagnole);
Tchaikovsky (Sextet in D
minor, Op 70, Souvenir de
Florence, Elgar (Piano and
Circumstances March No 4 in
G)
10.00 Musical Encounters.
Includes Wolf-Ferrari (Overture: La danza bobol)
10.05 Proms Artist of the
Week: Simon Preston, organ.
Franck (Choral No 1 in C);
Bach (Prelude and Fugue in F
minor, BWV 857); Diapason
(Hymne) 11.37 D'Albert
(Piano Concerto No 2 in E)
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Igor Stravinsky
1.00pm Proms Chamber Music
1996. Sally Burgess, mezzo,
John Lanchlan, piano, Helffer
Ensemble, under Nicholas
Danel, oboe, Ravel, ar Jones
(La tombeau de Couperin);
Chausson (Chanson perpé-
tuelle); Falla (Concerto for
harpsichord and five
instruments); Ravel (Trois
poemes de Stephane
Mellame)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC
National Orchestra of Wales,
under David Atherton. With
Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor,
Michael Thompson, horn
Rossini (Overture: The Barber
of Seville); Britten (Serenade)

for tenor, horn and strings;
Mozart (Hom Concerto No 2
in E flat, K471); Mendelssohn
(Symphony No 3 in A minor,
Scottish)
3.45 Velocis, Ian Bostridge, tenor,
performs songs by
Schumann, Brahms and Wolf.
Accompanied by Julius
Drake, piano (i)
4.30 First Bass. See Choice (2/6)
5.00
5.15 In Tune. Presented by Natalie
Wheeler. Nancarrow (Studies
for player-piano); John
Adams, ar Odum (Short Ride
in a Fast Machine)
6.25 BBC Proms 1996. Live from
the Albert Hall in London.
Handel's Messiah. Soprano,
Joshua, soprano, Fairhead
Helen, bass, Charlotte
Hellekant, mezzo, Michael
Chen, countertenor, Chorus
and Orchestra of Les Arts
Floriants, under William
Christie. Act 1 7.25 Serenade
in English Opera? Derek
Alsop examines the history of
Handel's oratorio 7.45 Act 2
8.30 Congress a Final Year,
with Peter Hallard 8.50 Act 3
10.15 The Colours of Music. Philip
Dodd begins an exploration
into the relationship between
music and music (i) (i)
10.45 Mixing It, with Russel
and Robert Sandil
11.30 Composer of the Week:
Handel (i)
12.30am Jazz Notes. See Choice
1.00 Through the Night, with
Donald Macleod. Includes
1.05 Beethoven and Schubert
2.20 Motets and Madrigals
by Lassus and Philip de
Monte 3.00 Mozart and
Brahms 5.00 Sequences

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW
only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10
Farming Today 6.25 Prayers
for the Day 6.30 Today incl
7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45
Thought for the Day 8.40
Notes from a Small Island
(1/5) 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Soapbox. The
last of the series with Andrew
Neil and guests
10.00 News; Big Bang (FM only).
The innovative science
programme written and
presented by Jez Nelson
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Women's Hour
11.30 Inside Money. A look at the
Inland Revenue self
assessment scheme (4/6) (i)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with
Chris Choi
12.25pm Brain of Britain 1996
1.00 The World at One, with Ben
Bradshaw
1.40 The Archers (i) 1.55
Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Pioneers, Oh
Pioneers. Richard O'Sullivan
and Jilly Bond star in Nigel
Gammay's play, based on a
short story by Jean Rhys set
in turn-of-the-century
Dominica (i)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
Lynne Walker considers why
there are so few women
conductors and celebrates
the music of Stravinsky as the
Proms mark the 25th
anniversary of his death
4.45 Short Story: Holy Spirit in
the Phone Box, by Kath
Mackay. Read by Janet Maw
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather

6.30 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Old Harry's Game. A
comedy series set in Hell by
James Hamilton. Salen berry
to feel self-conscious about his
appearance. James Groux and
Jimmy Mulligan (4/6) (i)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Deep Season: One for
the Pot. Lionel Kelleway
hunts down crabs and lobster
in South Wales (2/4) (i)
7.45 The Monday Play: The
houseless Slaves. See
Choice
8.45 Mind over Music. Peter
Evans investigates the
psychology of making music.
Is it a talent you are born with
or can maestros be made
from anyone? (2/4) (i)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (i) 9.55
Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with
Tabea Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Changes
of Address. Juliet Stevenson
reads Lee Langley's novel,
adapted by Yvonne Arthurs
(8/10) (i)
11.00 No Illusions. Francine Stock
presents five late-night
discussion programmes on
current controversial subjects.
Tonight's programme deals
with the BBC ones, which
autuated how unprepared
Britain is for problems in food
production
12.00 News incl 12.27am approx
Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The Secret
History. William Hope reads
Donna Tartt's bestselling
thriller. Adapted by Brian
McCabe (6/10) 12.45
Shipping Forecast 1.00 As
World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-
92.0. RADIO 3. FM 92.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW
720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. W 198. CLASSIC FM. MW 648; LW
198 (12.45-5.55am). TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053. 1080. Virgin Radio, FM
105.8; MW 1187, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053. 1080. Television
and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary
Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Σελίδα 10

to Bertrand's mother, and that the excitement of adultery didn't come into it.

The English Wife was well acted and beautifully made, but it didn't save you with much to think about. When it finished, I lifted my legs and dispersed like mist. Not like Jerry Sex on BBC2 last night, then: which will never be forgotten by anyone who saw it. Taking a potentially tacky subject (imagined Carlton version) this film about sex in old age was frank, delicate and (amazingly) in no way undescending.

The interviewees were all heroes — especially the bearded man who demonstrated his wonderful penis-sustaining hand-pump, while his wife giggled beside him. How exciting it must be to lead with this in the morning with your eyes closed tight. "It could be balloons! Or it might be the other thing! But either way, hoorah!"

CHANNEL 4

on Hammerman (r) (2938534)

The Big Breakfast (15143)

California Dreams (r) (7835230)

The Secret World of Alex Mack (r) (8172839) **9.55** **Hangin' with Mr Cooper** (r) (Teletext) (r) (8044592) **10.30** **Prink Panther** (r) (r) (2858774) **10.45** **Rockin' Modern Life** (r) (r) (8082722) **11.05** **The Crystal Maze** (r) (Teletext) (r) (8309105) **12.00** **Mack and Mindy** (r) (73940) **12.30pm** **Crawshaw Patrol** (r) (r) (Teletext) (r) (85281) **1.00** **Prink Panther** (r) (19796) **2.00** **Eastern Promise** (1843638)

Millie's Terese (1951 b/w). Bigotry in a small town greets Italian bride Pier Angel, when her American G.I. John Ericson takes her home as the end of the Second World War. Directed by Fred Zimmerman (Teletext) (124940)

Sackdats (Teletext) (s) (388) **4.30** **Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (501) **5.00** **The Mortal Williams Show** (Teletext) (r) (8062143) **5.45** **Terrytoons** (795308)

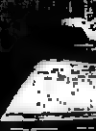
The Cosby Show (r) (Teletext) (786)

Story Means World (Teletext) (r) (178)

Channel 4 News (Teletext) (287501)

The Spot (597354)

If I Were Prime Minister: "Mad" **Prime Minister Fraser**. Once a ruthless crook, while his spare-time hall of 72 years in prison, the Prime Minister's wannabe gives us the benefit of his considered opinions about prison reform, pensioners and immigration (Teletext) (s) (3899)



Sponsor: Tracy checks in (8:30pm)

FILM: *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1954). When a one-eyed stranger (Spencer Tracy) comes to their desert town, the locals greet him with hostility. Also with Robert Ryan and Anne Francis. Directed by John Sturges (50850)

TV-14 **Sex and the Scientists: Women — The Inside Story.** Challenging notions of monogamy and male supremacy, *Research* carried out by female scientists has turned up incidences of female promiscuity throughout the animal kingdom. (Teletext) (s) (2628495)

Latino Nights: The Maroons. Conflict between mining companies and local farmers in Suriname (s) (8439501)

Latino Nights: Romero — Campo Dourado. The Brazilian footballer was idolized, but when his footwork failed him, his adoring fans turned nasty (s) (844018)

TV-14 **Mr. North** (9:00pm) *Danny* about the

Damian Bichl and Juan Manuel Bernal
(s) (948273)
FILM: *Viva Villa* (1934, b&w). Biopic
about the bandit commander prominent
in the fight to make Mexico a republic.
Starring Wallace Beery and Fay Wray.
Directed by Jack Conway and Howard
Hawks (26184032). Ends at 4.35am

[illegible]

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below:

7.00pm The Divine Comedy	(35760018)
8.00 Anna Christie	(1930) (3573582)
10.00 The Pirate	(7948) (10920688) 11.45
Battle of the V1	(1960) (1970313)
1.55am The Divine Comedy	(21581457)
2.45-5.00 Anna Christie	(1930)
(31727780)	

Three of Britain's biggest banks unveil their results

BUSINESS

MONDAY AUGUST 5 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

MERGER TRAP 38

Graham Searjeant wants more than just promises

Brunner Mond to float

By Jason Nisse

BRUNNER MOND, one of the four companies which combined to form Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) in 1926, is to return to the stock market, gaining its first independent quote for 70 years.

The 123-year-old company, founded by Sir John Brunner and Ludwig Mond in Cheshire, is the only UK manufacturer of soda ash, which is used for glass, detergents and other chemicals. The group is also the largest soda ash group in Africa, collecting the chemical from the bed of Lake Magadi in Kenya. It was bought out from ICI in 1991.

The flotation, due in the early autumn, is expected to raise more than £50 million and is backed by Baring Brothers and HSBC James Capel. The market for new issues is expected to improve in the autumn after an uncertain summer. Ultra Electronics, which supplies the aerospace industry, has announced its plans to come to market. Ultra is to float in the autumn with a market value of £120 million.



Flotation reflections. Brunner Mond is the largest soda ash group in Africa, collecting from among the flamingoes on Lake Magadi in Kenya

Virgin Atlantic about to sign Caribbean carrier deal

By Jason Nisse

VIRGIN ATLANTIC is close to sealing a £30 million deal which could lead to Richard Branson's airline taking control of BWIA International Airways, one of the main carriers between the UK and the Caribbean.

The purchase would be a quantum leap for Virgin, giving it access to a well-run airline with more than £300 million of turnover to add to the £300 million of sales already built up by Virgin. A link with BWIA would fit nicely with Virgin Holidays, which has strong ties in the West Indies, with Mr Branson owning Necker, a paradise island in the British Virgin Islands.

Virgin would initially buy a 27 per cent stake in BWIA, becoming a partner with the Trinidad & Tobago Government and three other investors, joining forces with BWIA in marketing, pilot training, servicing airplanes and the like. Virgin would then have the option of taking another 24 per cent to give it majority control.

Brian Pocock, a senior Virgin Atlantic executive with links in the Caribbean, is in Trinidad putting the final touches to the deal.

British negotiators have told their US counterparts that they will not get an "open skies" deal unless the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines is given the go-ahead (Harvey Elliott writes). Talks so far have seen the American side hoping to get a new transatlantic air services agreement signed by November 5, before the US Presidential election. But British officials from the Department of Transport are refusing to sign any new agreement unless the link between BA and AA — seen as the only realistic way for British airlines to tap into the vast American market — is formally approved.

They have also refused to offer "fifth freedom" rights to American carriers to enable them to fly to another country after stopping in Heathrow, arguing that they can do this through code-sharing deals which do not take up as many slots.

Shrinking reserves hit North Sea prospects

By Carl Mortimer

BRITAIN'S oil industry faces a bleak future of shrinking reserves and declining production, according to a report published today by leading consultants. Failure by oil companies to replace current production with discoveries of new oil and gas fields raises the prospect of an industry falling into decline after peaking in 1998 and 1999.

The gloomy outlook for the oil industry, which provided almost £24 billion in tax revenues for the Government last year, stems from a report by Wood Mackenzie, the oil

consultants. Their annual review of developments on the UK's Continental Shelf highlights a sharp decline in the number of new fields that could come forward for development in the short to medium term.

Wood Mackenzie forecasts a 35 per cent decline in the amount of oil and gas recoverable from its 1996 portfolio of probable fields. These fields, currently amounting to 13 per cent of remaining commercial reserves, are oil and gas fields discovered by companies but which have not received gov-

ernment approval for development.

Wood Mackenzie has identified some 30 probable fields this year that could receive approval, compared with 67 identified last year. Nineteen fields from the 1995 portfolio comprising about 1.5 billion barrels of oil have since received development approval. In contrast, Wood Mackenzie has identified only nine new fields to add to the probable list this year, accounting for only 400 million barrels.

A Wood Mackenzie spokesman said yesterday: "If nothing changes, we are going to see a decline in production. We are likely to see fewer fields coming on-stream for development and fields with smaller reserves."

The problem is exacerbated by a decline in technical reserves — fields where the development timescales and op-

tions are more uncertain. Typically, a new discovery is added to technical reserves. After appraisal work and further wells drilled, it progresses to probable and then to full development. According to Wood Mackenzie, technical reserves in 1990 were 7.4 billion barrels, rising to 8.4 billion in 1991. But the accelerating pace of North Sea development, encouraged by government policy to "fast-track" development, has left the industry with a technical reserve portfolio of only 4.7 billion barrels.

In simple terms, the oil companies have not been replacing oil pumped out of the North Sea with new discoveries. The Wood Mackenzie spokesman said: "It would be wrong to say we are all doomed, but we have seen that the technical reserves are not increasing. The oil companies have been cherry-picking the

best opportunities from their technical reserves, but they are not finding much new oil with the drill bit."

Wood Mackenzie points out that the picture could change markedly if new reserves were announced by oil companies drilling west of the Shetland Islands where BP announced its 340 million barrel Schiehallion discovery in 1993. However, since then, BP has announced no major discoveries and released little information. According to the consultant, there are some 160 "tight holes" in the UK Continental Shelf. These are wells drilled where the operator fails to disclose the results of the drilling.

Dwindling bounty from beneath the North Sea could have serious implications for the Government and the service industries that depend on the North Sea oil industry.

Royal Mail urges CWU to hold vote

The Royal Mail yesterday urged the Communications Workers Union to ballot its members on a new pay and conditions deal. This was last week rejected by the union executive because of some leaders' opposition to management plans to introduce team-working. The executive meets today to discuss the dispute. Members will stage the latest in a series of 24-hour strikes tomorrow.

Selfridges plan

Sears is planning to expand the Selfridges department store in Oxford Street by adding 150,000 sq ft of space. The move could cost £100 million and would depend on Westminster Council giving planning permission.

Broker quits

Pat O'Reilly, one of the City's best known stockbrokers, is leaving Panmure Gordon after 25 years to join rival Charterhouse Tilney.

Potential suitors queue for Kepit

By Marianne Culphey

THE bid by TR European Growth Trust (Treg) to liquidate the assets of Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) has flushed out a number of other potential bidders.

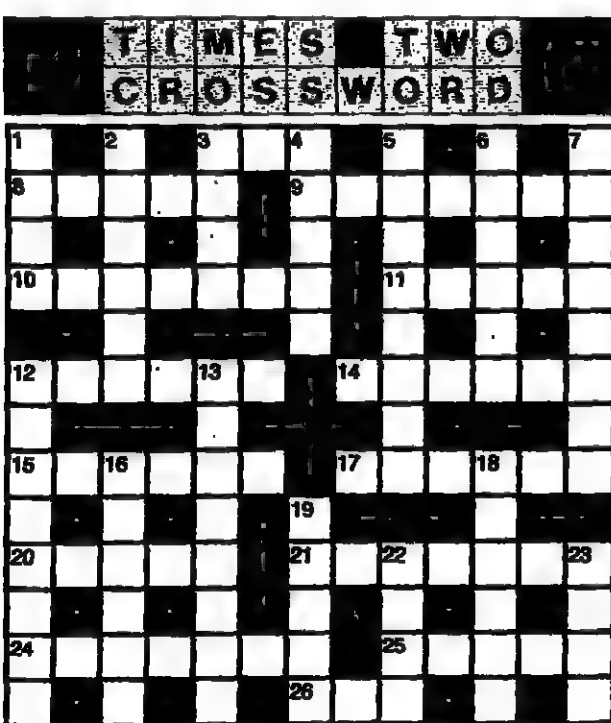
Kepit's board has been approached by several big City institutions interested in taking control of the ailing trust. Kleinwort Benson is also believed to have approached a number of trust managers, including Morgan Grenfell Trust Managers, about taking over the mandate to run Kepit — although not the ownership — either as an investment trust or a unit trust.

An extraordinary meeting of some of the 77,000 Kepit shareholders tomorrow is due to vote on the board's proposal to narrow the discount at

which the trust is trading by buying back 60 per cent of Kepit shares.

However, Kepit's fund managers, Kleinwort Benson Investment Management Limited (KBIM), put forward plans on Friday to make Kepit a unit trust and are seeking to have the EGM postponed.

One industry source said the KBIM proposals were by no means certain to be adopted. "The board is waiting to see whether alternative offers are more tempting," he added. The Kepit flotation in 1994 pulled in a record £800 million from investors buoyed up by successful UK privatisations. The result was a disappointment — European privatisations never offered the easy UK-style profits that were expected.



No 852

ACROSS

- 3 Droop (3)
- 4 Classical writer of fables (5)
- 9 Demand too much strength (7)
- 10 The North Star (7)
- 11 Gently poke (5)
- 12 Lacking strength (6)
- 14 Instruction period (6)
- 15 Disclose true identity (6)
- 17 Leisurely walk (6)
- 20 A second chance to see (film) (5)
- 21 Front tooth (7)
- 24 Local variant of language (7)
- 25 Newspapers: insist (5)
- 26 Hill-building insect (3)

DOWN

- 1 A little wet (4)
- 2 Lover of Tristan (Wagner) (6)
- 3 Box ship's pole (4)
- 4 Furze (5)
- 5 Discover anew (8)
- 6 Exercises (eg for piano) (6)
- 7 From outside (8)
- 12 Water-additive tooth-pre-server (8)
- 13 Rival of Demetrius (MND) (8)
- 16 Brick-bonding paste: cannon (6)
- 18 Ejection (6)
- 19 (Long, narrow) view (5)
- 22 Egyptian Christian (4)
- 23 Reddish: optimistic (4)

SOLUTION TO No. 851

- ACROSS: 1 Mumbo jumbo 8 Fixture 9 Gnome 10 Aide 11 Turnpike 13 Broke 14 Eight 16 Embellish 17 Pass 20 Sleet 21 Blister 22 Bridgehead
- DOWN: 1 Mafia 2 Mixed doubles 3 Onus 4 Useful 5 Beginner 6 Losing battle 7 Decent 12 Decanter 13 Breast 15 Forbid 18 Strud 19 Wipe

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Aston Villa clears way to stock market goal

ASTON VILLA, the Premier-ship football club, is to ask its shareholders to approve a restructuring of the company, which is being seen by City investors as a precursor to a stock market flotation.

The restructuring, which gets rid of a class of high voting shares first issued in the 1950s, would make Doug Ellis, Villa's chairman, £6 million richer overnight.

It would leave Villa, whose players include Gareth Southgate, whose missed penalty put England out of Euro 96, with a valuation of £65 million, according to the recent price of the thinly traded shares.

The proposal, to be voted on at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on August 15, is to convert the special shares, commanding 15 votes each, into 15 ordinary shares. In its circular to shareholders, Villa



Southgate: big asset

argues that this would protect the rights of the holders of the special shares, mostly directors of the club, or people closely associated with them.

In recent share restructurings for quoted companies, such as GUS, the issue of new

shares has been more closely related to the relative share price. If that structure was followed, special shareholders would only have received two or three new shares. The most recent price at which special shares traded was £1,500, while a placing of ordinary shares by stockbroker Albert E Sharp recently commanded prices in the region of £650.

If the prices hold up, Mr Ellis's holding of 759 special shares will soar in value from £1.14 million to £7.4 million, valuing his total stake in the club at more than £27 million.

Villa ordinary shares have soared over the past 18 months. In line with most soccer stocks. At the start of 1995 they stood at £120. The club has gained a strong City following, with Credit Lyonnais-Laing and Hoare Govett, the brokers, keen fans.

Joint £313m bid with O'Reilly tops rival offer

Mirror near to winning WP

A JOINT £313 million bid from Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers, the Irish group headed by Tony O'Reilly, is close to securing Westminster Press, the regional newspapers business put up for sale by Pearson (Jason Nisse writes).

The Mirror/O'Reilly axis, which also controls The Independent newspaper, beat off a £303 million bid from Newsquest, the ambitious regional newspaper group backed by money from US investor Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. United News &

Media had also indicated that it might be prepared to pay up to £305 million for WP but never made a formal offer.

The Mirror/O'Reilly team is understood to have increased its offer late in the day, tempted by the prospect of an £8 million pension fund surplus. It would be Mirror's first move into regional newspapers in England, which is a business Independent Newspapers has been attracted to for some time.

A deal is expected to be announced today, with Pearson hoping to deflect attention

away from poor half-year results that will reflect the continued problems at Mindscape, the Californian software operation which has fallen into losses since being bought three years ago.

There will also be speculation about the successor to Frank Barlow, Pearson's managing director, who is due to retire next year. The company is believed to be looking to an outsider, much to the chagrin of Greg Dyke who runs Pearson TV and John Makinson, recently promoted to finance director.

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THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,651

TUESDAY AUGUST 6 1996

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER

OF SPORT

GOLF HEROINE'S LATEST TRIUMPH

Laura Davies, well on the way to becoming a sports legend
PAGE 42

WIN FREE FLIGHTS WITH VIRGIN
DETAILS AND TOKEN 3
PAGE 19

DOUBLE LIFE

Twins: twice the fun, twice the trouble
PAGE 13
Plus: Libby Purves on abortion ethics
PAGE 14

PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

Another chance to pick your team
PAGES 20, 21



Four more one-day strikes called

Royal Mail monopoly suspended

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE Post Office's monopoly on delivering letters was suspended for a month yesterday after union leaders announced four more one-day strikes to follow today's stoppage.

Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, announced that for the first time in 25 years, private companies would be allowed to deliver letters with a postage of less than 11p. But none of the big courier firms intended to step into the breach; all were looking for a permanent end to the monopoly.

The suspension came after the postal executive of the Communication Workers' Union rejected a deal that some of its leaders had agreed with Royal Mail negotiators last week. No fresh talks are planned and further strikes were announced for August 14, 22 and 30 and September 2.

Mr Lang said the union's decision left him no alternative "but to seek to protect the interests of businesses and domestic customers", and he gave a warning that the suspension could be extended for a further three months if the strikes continued.

John Roberts, the Post Office chief executive, said that a prolonged suspension could jeopardise the postal service. The loss of business could lead to higher prices and undermine universal deliveries.

Mr Lang will review the position this time next month. Under the Telecommunications Act, he can renew temporary suspensions indefinitely, but a permanent removal of the monopoly would require legislation. He has already

ordered officials to draw up proposals to outlaw disruption in essential services and the privatisation of the Post Office — abandoned after a backbench revolt two years ago — is again being considered.

The Government is setting no guidelines for operators which want to take advantage of the suspension and they are free to canvass for business from today. The courier and parcel companies that would benefit most from an end to the Post Office monopoly made clear, however, that they were not interested.

Stewart Birt of TNT, which delivers 400,000 packages a day, said: "The monopoly would have to be ended permanently. Then we could work to bring costs down for both consumer and business mail users."

UPS, the world's biggest package distribution company, also said it had no plans to offer an alternative to the Royal Mail. "UPS will not step in and offer a solution to the strike situation," the company's marketing director Colin Beesley said.

Amtrak was considering the options, but a spokesman said: "We will have to see what happens in the long term, rather than the short term." And DHL said it would not be interested in stepping in for a month: "Anything that is going to be for a period of four weeks, with the requirement to build infrastructures and so on, does not give any operator time to put it in place."

The latest round of strikes was announced after the

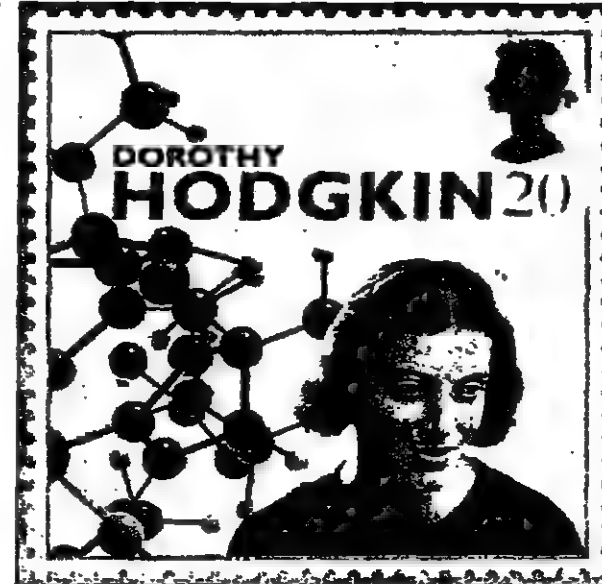
union's postal executive rejected the "teamworking" element of the Royal Mail offer. That would give employees extra responsibility for self-management, and the union's general secretary Alan Johnson said that it would be unacceptable in any shape or form.

Mr Lang immediately accused the postal workers of giving the public "a bunch of fives". He called for a secret ballot of union members and said: "The five 24-hour strikes confirm that militancy within the trade union movement continues to thrive."

With the Tories confident of turning the dispute to their advantage, ministers will now press Tony Blair to condemn the stoppages. But Mr Lang said: "It is no secret why new Labour refuses to condemn the union — it bankrupts the Labour Party to the tune of £250,000 a year."

Stephen Byers, the Shadow Employment Minister, countered: "The Government has been far more interested in playing politics with the issue than in trying to play their part in resolving it. This is because they are both determined to play politics with any industrial dispute at the moment and as part of their long-term agenda to privatise the Post Office. Mr Lang's announcement has no support within the industry and is not in the customer's interest."

The last time the monopoly was lifted was during a protracted industrial dispute under the Heath Government in 1971. It was suspended at the Post Office's request from January 18 until March 10.



Discord on women given the stamp of approval

By CAROL MIDDLEY, DALYA ALBERGE AND PETER FORSTER

A SET of decorative stamps celebrating "great 20th-century women" plunged the Royal Mail into new controversy yesterday after the likes of Marie Stopes, Virginia Woolf, Emmeline Pankhurst and Agatha Christie failed to make the grade.

The new stamps honour Elisabeth Frink, Dorothy Hodgkin, Margot Fonteyn, Daphne du Maurier and Marea Hartman. And while the Royal Mail admitted that some were not household names, it argued that they had achieved outstandingly throughout their lives.

Their contributions to art and literature, science and sport made a major impact during their lives and continue to be influential today, a spokesman said. "They are all modern women who helped to shape the century. We had to choose from about 100 names and it was very difficult to bring it down to just five."

Dorothy Hodgkin won the Nobel Prize in 1946 for her pioneering work on the structure of molecules; Margot Fonteyn danced her last solo

at 15 and went on to become prima ballerina assoluta and president of the Royal Academy of Dancing; Elisabeth Frink was the most notable British woman sculptor of her generation, with public works including the Eagle Lectern in Coventry Cathedral.

Daphne du Maurier remains a best-seller 60 years after the publication of her first novel, while Marea Hartman inspired generations of young women athletes.

But the selected few brought protests from the worlds of literature, art and sport. Quentin Bell, Virginia Woolf's nephew and biographer, thought Du Maurier a rather obscure choice. "She was an agreeable writer of agreeable fiction, but not a great or serious author. Ivy Compton-Burnett might have been more appropriate."

Martin Brown of Equity was disappointed that there was no actress on the list. "What about all those great names of film, theatre and television? Edith Sitwell, Edith Evans, Peggy Ashcroft," he said. "Any of them have been fantastic."

James Brock, director of classical marketing for EMI, thought the cellist Jacqueline du Pré an obvious choice. Carmen Calli, who founded the Virago Press, said: "As much as I love Du Maurier, I wouldn't have chosen her. I could think of 500 others." And Karen Fielder, from the Women, Heritage and Museum group, said: "It would have been nice to see Marie Stopes, Virginia Woolf or one of the suffragettes represented."

Six marketing and design employees from the Royal Mail worked with the ten-strong Stamp Advisory Committee on the project. The committee includes the television presenter Fionnula Flanagan, Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, philatelist Dr Jean Alexander, and the designers Mary Lewis and Professor Alan Livingston. The stamps, which go on sale today, were designed by Stephanie Nash.

Callers swamp hotline to shop their neighbours

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of callers used the new national confidential "shop-a-benefit-cheat" telephone line within hours of its launch yesterday.

More than 200 rang within the first 60 minutes of the service being set up by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. By 3pm, four hours after the service began, the number was more than 800. The day's total was 1,650.

Some of the tip-offs were about people accused of running illicit car repair businesses at their homes while claiming unemployment benefit, others about painters and decorators who worked while signing on and one about a fireman who was doing a second job but not declaring the income. "It has been an extraordinary success," said a DSS official.

Peter Lilley dismissed the clamour of criticism from rival politicians and poverty action groups, who accused the Government of the wrong priorities and stoking up trouble between neighbours with the introduction of what they called a "snooper's charter". He said: "Every pound lost on fraud means a pound less to help people in genuine need. It is a welcome addition to the battle against fraud."

A team of 55 Benefits Agency staff in Preston handled the calls which far exceeded expectations. Operators provided their christian names but did not seek the identity of callers.

The £500,000 advertising campaign to publicise the hotline will centre on the slogan: "Know of a benefit rip-off? Give us a telephone tip-off."

The Civil and Public Services Association predicted that the service would lead to a

further increase of assaults on staff from people who were the victims of malicious tip-offs. Barry Reamsbottom, the General Secretary of the CPSSA, said: "The Government is introducing a snooper's line which can also be turned into a grudge-line. There is bound to be a backlash as members are forced to investigate more complaints. A lot of people will see us as snoopers, and if people feel harassed or unfairly treated they are more likely to lash out at staff."

Mr Lilley rejected the charge. "We are not asking



Blunt message of the £500,000 campaign

people to snoop into their neighbours' business. The aim of the hotline was to 'turn the tables' on fraudsters. The vast majority of people are honest but there is a large minority who are dishonest — we must stop them abusing the system so that we can continue to afford to provide a decent level of provision for everybody else."

The move is part of a major crackdown on benefit fraud, which is currently estimated to be running at £3 billion a year. Mr Lilley disclosed yesterday that more than £1.4 billion in fraud had been detected and prevented last year — double the figure for the previous year.

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Belfast ban

Police in Belfast have banned a loyalist parade from passing through a nationalist area of the city on Saturday in the hope of reducing sectarian tensions — Page 2

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Phone users face playing numbers game yet again

By ROBIN YOUNG

PLANS to introduce a new system of telephone codes just 16 months after the last big overhaul were criticised last night by consumers facing a multimillion-pound bill for the changes.

Business and private phone users will have to pay to update stationery, computer programs, publicity and advertising material. The capacity for eight billion new numbers was introduced on PHONEday last year.

The British Chambers of Commerce said: "We are slightly disappointed they didn't get it right the first time. Businesses may be finding it a bit wearisome to go through it all again."

Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Telecommunications (Ofel), admitted: "Our ability to forecast the increase in numbers is not very good." However, he said that the urgent need to overhaul the numbering system again was a reflection of Britain's leading position in the information revolution and of the mushrooming demand for telecommunications services.

The Labour Party attacked Ofel, the telecommunications regulator, for creating a "shambles" and complained at the cost.

If the new proposals are

adopted, they will involve changing all existing domestic numbers in five big cities from the year 2000, all existing mobile and pager phone numbers, all specially tariffed and premium rate service numbers, and many large businesses' phone numbers. The total number of changes, excluding the business users, would be at least 15 million. No changes will be introduced before the year 2000.

The new scheme would devote all numbers beginning 05 to big business customers, reserve 07 for mobile phones, pagers and "find me anywhere" personal numbers, put all specially tariffed services such as freephones and shared cost and revenue services in the 08 category, and make premium rate services instantly recognisable by having them all begin 09.

Mr Cruickshank, whose previous proposals for more modest changes were rejected by industry and consumer groups last year, said in London yesterday that his new scheme, published in a consultative document, provided "a clear and transparent plan for the future". He said: "It sweeps away anomalies and will give customers a clear indication of the type of service"

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Sectarian tensions heightened as weekend of marches approaches

RUC orders change to loyalist parade

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

POLICE in Belfast have banned a loyalist parade from passing through a nationalist area of the city on Saturday in the hope of reducing sectarian tensions during a weekend of contentious marches.

Members of the loyalist Apprentice Boys, who were ordered by the RUC to re-route their march away from the Roman Catholic Lower Ormeau Road, condemned the police decision last night as "deplorable".

The RUC vigorously defended its decision, which was made as nationalists and Unionists held intensive talks in Londonderry over a much larger and more contentious Apprentice Boys parade in the city on Saturday.

Bill Stewart, the RUC's Assistant Chief Constable in Belfast, made clear that the decision was designed to help the negotiations in Londonderry. He said: "It is our fervent hope that everyone will exercise their influence to ensure peace is maintained."

There are fears that serious sectarian violence could erupt across Northern Ireland if nationalists fail to reach agreement with the Apprentice Boys over Saturday's parade in Londonderry. Up to 10,000 loyalists are due to converge for the last contentious parade in a marching season that has seen the worst violence for years.

Loyalists are due to stage two parades in the city to mark the Siege of Derry in 1689. In the first, and most contentious, the Apprentice Boys' Parent Clubs are due to march along the city walls at 9.30am from their memorial hall to the cenotaph and on to a service at St Columba's Cathedral.

Later they are due to be joined by up to 10,000 Apprentice Boys from across Northern Ireland. This parade is due to pass from the Protestant Waterside area of Londonderry across the Craigavon Bridge, around the city centre and back across the River Foyle.

Nationalists in Londonderry object to the first parade because it is due to pass along



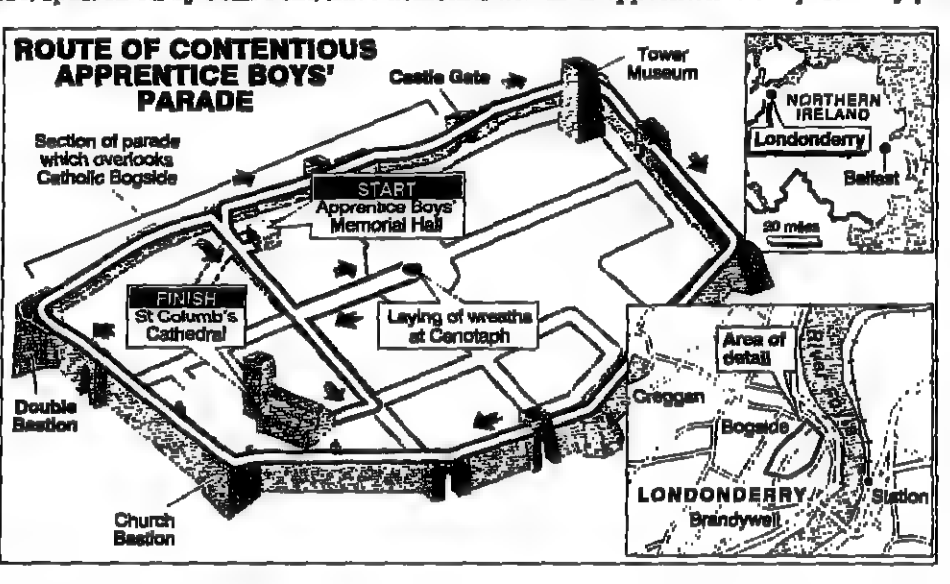
Nationalists in the Bogside, spurred on by Sinn Féin, have demonstrated their opposition to the parade by painting new murals

a stretch of the city walls that overlooks the Roman Catholic Bogside area. Trouble flared last year when the RUC cleared Sinn Féin demonstrators from the city walls to allow the march to take place.

Serious sectarian violence during the parade in 1969 led to the deployment of British troops on the streets of Londonderry and Belfast at the start of the modern-day troubles.

John Hume, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and MP for Foyle, last night chaired the third meeting between nationalists and the Apprentice Boys in the hope of finding an agreement over the march. It is understood that the Apprentice Boys insisted that their parade should pass along the full circuit of the historic walls.

As a gesture to the nationalists the loyalists agreed to allow screens and barbed wire to be erected along the section of the walls that overlooks the Bogside. They also agreed to



limit the number of bands on the walls and not to play along the disputed section.

Nationalists from the Bogside insisted that the parade should be confined to the city centre within the walls. They also

called for the RUC to be banned from policing the parade. The nationalists also gave warning that any agreement over Londonderry would be worthless if the loyalists fail to reach agreement with nationalists on

other parades on Saturday in Bellaghy, Co Londonderry.

Pat Devine, a former SDLP Mayor of Derry, called for restraint from the Apprentice Boys to recognise nationalist fears about triumphalist marches. He added: "Derry

people of the most moderate opinion deeply resent the idea of the Apprentice Boys coming to Derry and doing what they like."

However, Alasdair Simpson, the Governor of the Apprentice Boys, called on nationalists to recognise how important it is for loyalists to be allowed to march along the walls as they commemorate the 13 Apprentice Boys who slurred the gates of the city in the faces of the Catholic Jacobite forces during the Siege of Derry.

He said: "There are those who say it is a triumphalist march. It is nothing of the sort. It is a commemoration. It is like other people in Northern Ireland and across the water commemorating the fallen of two world wars."

The Apprentice Boys have agreed to comply with the RUC order. They will march as far as the Ormeau Bridge where they will board buses to Derry to join the main Apprentice Boys' march.

Blair backtracks on introduction of social chapter

By Andrew Pierce
political correspondent

TONY BLAIR is preparing to delay the introduction of the social chapter if he wins the election, and to abandon Labour's commitment to co-opting workers on to company boards. The party leadership has agreed on a massive consultation exercise with industry leaders and trade unions before agreeing to implement the terms of the chapter.

The move could effectively delay Britain's full participation in the

social chapter, branded "socialism by the back door" by the Tories, for months or even years, and lead to confrontation with the unions.

The Labour MP Stephen Byers, appointed last week to a frontbench post handling policy on the Social Chapter, said yesterday: "We will immediately opt in to the social chapter in principle. But in practice we will only agree to implementation after a realistic timetable has been agreed. We will first have to enter into a wide consultation exercise and

period of negotiation. Only then will we be able to put our proposals before Parliament." No date has been set for the end of consultations.

Mr Blair's rethink anticipates Tory attacks on the party's support for the social chapter. Further pressure came with the disclosure that Labour MEPs have backed an 87-point wishlist, drawn up by Pádraig Flynn, the European Commissioner for Social Affairs, for inclusion in the chapter. The list, which will be presented to the

conference at the end of the year, includes moves to outlaw discrimination against employees who make complaints or refuse an unacceptable workload, the right to collective bargaining in all companies, and quotas on the employment of women and ethnic minority groups.

Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said last night: "They are trying to fudge their commitment but it does not fool us and it will not fool business. Until Labour commit themselves to keep the opt-out there

can be no doubt they aim to sign up to the social chapter, which will destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs."

Labour will fight for a veto on co-opting workers on to boards because it believes the system, which is widespread in Europe, would not work in Britain where company structures are different. However, it is maintaining support for the provision within the chapter for works councils, which bring together management and employees to discuss employment conditions.

No prosecution on custody death

Police officers will not face prosecution over the death in custody of Wayne Douglas, which provoked riots in Brixton last December. Mr Douglas, 26, died after he was arrested as a suspect in an aggravated burglary. Police said he brandished a knife and long-handled batons were used to disarm him. Two post-mortem examinations blamed the death on a heart attack. Yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service said: "After careful consideration, senior lawyers decided that there is insufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction."

Scotland Yard said an inquest will be held later and any question of disciplinary action would be decided afterwards. Mr Douglas's brother Albert said: "It is no more than I expected. This is just the system."

World Service reprieve

Jeremy Hanley, the junior Foreign Office Minister, gave a strong hint yesterday that the Government will seek to shelve proposals by John Birt, the BBC Director-General, to reorganise the World Service. Mr Hanley said that the BBC had guaranteed that no irrevocable change would be made pending a review of how the "special nature" of the service could be maintained.

£175,000 pollution fine

Severn Trent Water was fined £175,000 and ordered to pay £44,000 in costs and compensation after it admitted leaking chemicals into the River Wye, killing 33,000 young salmon. Cardiff Crown Court was told it was the company's 34th conviction since privatisation in 1990. Judge Prosser said: "To be convicted so many times shows that the management of the company is very slack indeed."

The eagle has flown

Conservationists are celebrating the first successful rearing in Britain for four years of a golden eagle. The bird has flown from the eyrie, which has been guarded around the clock throughout the nesting season by members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, at a 25,000-acre nature reserve at Haweswater in the Lake District. Eagles have been nesting in the valley since 1969.

Singer's bus burnt out

A touring bus and £150,000 of musical equipment belonging to a leading country and western singer was set on fire by masked men in Northern Ireland yesterday. Police said that three of Dominic Kirwan's crew members were ordered out of the vehicle when it was stopped in a nationalist area of Armagh. Dominic, from Omagh, Co Tyrone, was not on the bus and the crew men escaped unhurt.

Britons on drug charge

Two British teenagers are being held in Morocco accused of trying to smuggle out six kilos of hashish. Sally Griffiths, 17, and Clare Martin, 19, who are believed to be holidaymakers from Harwich, were each charged with possessing three kilos of the drug after being arrested at Casablanca airport on July 31. They will have to wait until Friday for a decision on whether the authorities proceed with the case.

Gladiator girl to recover

The *Gladiators* contestant who was partially paralysed in a fall was told yesterday that she will make a full recovery. Nicki Claxton, 22, fractured a vertebra when she fell 20ft after slipping from the Pole-Axe apparatus used in the television show. A consultant at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, told the student she did not need surgery and would eventually regain feeling in her lower back and legs.

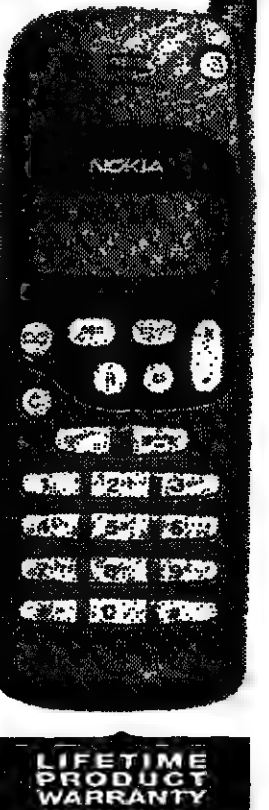
Great bore sets record

Steve King has set a new world distance record by surfing 5½ miles non-stop on the Severn Bore tidal wave in Gloucestershire. He more than doubled the previous best by David Lawson, who had held the record for eight years, as he stayed on top of the slow-moving wave for more than an hour. Mr King, 31, said: "Conditions were ideal and I found the perfect wave and stayed with it."

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Numbers game

Continued from page 1
behind each prefix, and the likely cost of their calls."

Ofel suggests that London's existing 0171 and 0181 codes could be reunited under the single code 020 followed by 7 or 8 and seven other digits. Alternatively, the split between inner and outer London could be maintained, using the codes 020 and 022 followed by eight digits.

For Cardiff, the proposal is that the 01222 code should be replaced in the year 2000 by 0282. Adjacent areas, such as Newport, Barry, Pontypridd and Pontypool could be amalgamated into the new code.

Belfast's 01232 code would be changed to 0292 and it is suggested that the short code 029 could used for the whole of Northern Ireland by 2003.

New codes of 0233 for Southampton and 0235 for Portsmouth would allow the Southampton code to extend to Romsey, Lymington, Winchester and Fareham West; Portsmouth could incorporate Chichester, Petersfield and Fareham East.

Mr Cruickshank said he had no idea what the changes would cost, but said that it would be less than the

PHONEday operation, and much less than the costs that would follow if necessary changes were not made.

Ofel adds that between 25 and 30 areas beyond the five most urgent cities will require more numbers in the next 15 to 20 years. Exchanges expected to require new codes by the year 2005 are: Bournemouth, Coventry, Cambridge, Aberdeen, Brighton, Bradford, Derby, Guildford, Middlesbrough, Preston, Stoke-on-Trent, Oxford, Wolverhampton and Wigan. By 2012 new codes will also be needed in Bolton, Ascot, Markyate, Northampton, Rochdale, Peterborough and Iver.

In summary, the proposed city number changes are, with present codes in parentheses: London (0171), 020, (0181), 020 or 022; Cardiff (01222), 0282; Belfast (01232), 0292; Southampton (01703), 0233; Portsmouth (01705), 0235.

□ The National Numbering Scheme: A Consultative Document (Ofel, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JL; free). Recorded messages about the proposals may be left on Ofel's Comments hotline: 0645 600 660 (calls charged at local rate).

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Mr Cruickshank said he had no idea what the changes would cost, but said that it would be less than the

Dublin puts out the flags for an Olympic heroine

By AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND has prepared a hero's welcome today for Michelle Smith, winner of three gold medals, at the end of the country's most successful Olympic Games.

Up to 60,000 people are expected to greet Smith when she arrives at Dublin airport. Mary Robinson, the President, will lead the welcoming party for the swimmer and the rest of the Olympic team. They will travel five miles in open-top buses to the city centre for a mid-morning rally at the General Post Office on O'Connell Street, the 1916 stronghold of Irish rebels fighting British rule.

But shadows hang over the homecoming, making it unlikely that the partying will reach the pitch of 1990, when Dublin raised the roof for the Irish football team that reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Italy.

There is widespread disappointment that Sonia O'Sullivan, Ireland's principal Olym-



Smith: won three gold medals and a bronze

pic hope, failed to fulfil expectations. She was stricken by illness and is not expected to return home for some time. The Irish have also been embarrassed by infighting between the country's Olympic officials in Atlanta.

Today's celebrations will be followed swiftly by a ministerial inquest into the dispute between the Olympics Council of Ireland and Bord Luthchleas na hEireann, the governing body of Irish athletics. The

row centred on deals the two organisations made with separate sports-gear manufacturing companies and the kit that had to be worn at the games by Irish contestants. Bernard Allen, the Minister for Sports, will lead the investigation into the public squabble.

Michelle Smith's father, Brian, yesterday attacked the allegations of drug-taking made against her. "Michelle never took an Aspro in her life, never mind a drug... To take drugs to me is unforgivable. To be caught on drugs would shame not only her but her whole family and Ireland, and Michelle would never let down the people of Ireland by doing anything untoward."

Mr Smith told RTE radio. He said that his daughter did not cheat to achieve her unexpected success. He said that she had worked hard and consistently and that he and his wife, Pat, were very proud of her achievement. He challenged critics to prove that she had behaved dishonestly.

Price of success, page 44

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Highway of Calwalkers

Farmer says fired at burn in self-defence

Highway robber of Cambridge walked into trap

A TEENAGE gang leader boasted that he was too clever to be caught as he preyed on the intellectuals of Cambridge. Robert Betson grew so confident that he told a victim with no ready cash to meet him the next day with £100.

He walked into a trap. The victim had alerted the police, and detectives could not believe their luck when the 16-year-old thug arrived at the rendezvous.

Yesterday Betson and members of his self-styled Robbery Crew were given custodial sentences as a judge called them modern-day highwaymen and footpads. They had robbed hundreds in a four-month crime spree, including many undergraduates. Police believe that many victims were too scared to come forward.

The targets of their attacks were threatened, beaten and robbed, sometimes at knife-point. Some were frog-marched to cash machines and forced to withdraw money. If they did not have enough cash, their watches, jewellery, cheque books and other items were taken. One youth had a light from his bicycle stolen because he had no other valuables.

Those in court were only part of the gang, and others have yet to be brought to justice. Betson had bragged to some of his victims that the



Betson: boasted that he would not be caught

gang had carried out more than 200 attacks and stolen more than £8,000. He told them that they would be killed if they reported the crime, and said that the gang was too clever to be caught by the police.

In reality they were anything but clever. All the offences were committed without masks or hoods, some in front of bank security cameras.

All the defendants had pleaded guilty at Cambridge Crown Court. It was said that, between October 1995 and January 1996, members of the gang hunted in packs, preying

on young men. In most cases the victims were approached by members of the gang who asked for spare change or offered to sell drugs. The youths would then become more threatening and demand money.

Many were told by their attackers that they had guns or knives. Others were punched and kicked when they resisted or did not have enough money to satisfy the robbers. One youth was robbed twice by the same gang.

Sentencing the gang, Judge John Sheerin said: "You are all young and that is part of the tragedy of this case. But you can properly be described as modern-day footpads."

The citizens of this city were abused and put in terror. It was frightening and violent. Citizens going about their lawful business and pleasure must be protected."

The judge recalled that Betson had told one victim: "Give us your money and you can go." The judge commented: "You told him as if you were some kind of highwayman. It was bravado, but it was frightening and dangerous."

The judge praised the police operation which had netted the gang saying: "You had a difficult job to do and you did it well. I hope that such a catalogue of offences never



Scott Tucker, 19, a gang member, at court yesterday. He was given five terms for robbery and three for affray

comes back to this court again."

Betson, who was 17 yesterday, was sentenced to ten concurrent sentences of six years for robbery. With him in the dock were David Doran, 18, who received five concurrent six-year sentences for robbery.

Scott Tucker, 19, received five concurrent two-year terms for robbery and three concur-

rent 12-month terms for assault and affray, the sentences to run consecutively. Martin Williams, 16, was given two years on each of three counts of robbery, the sentences to run concurrently.

Aaron White, 16, was sentenced to four concurrent terms of three years for robbery. Gareth Alnott, 17, was jailed for 12 months for a robbery and a consecutive six

months for handling. All of these defendants were from Cambridge.

Daniel Stagg, 16, of Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, was given 12 months for his part in one robbery. Another defendant, 17-year-old John Walsh, who admitted nine robberies, will be sentenced later. A ninth defendant, Paul Spooner, 20, who faces robbery and assault charges, is

currently on the run after being given bail.

The officer in charge of the case, Acting Detective Inspector Brian Hall, told the court: "Robbery is a serious matter and this affected a lot of people. It got to the stage where people were afraid to go on the streets. These incidents were some of the most serious on the streets of Cambridge I have ever seen."

Orderly is accused of switching blood test

By JOANNA BALE

A HOSPITAL orderly and his girlfriend, a nurse, tampered with a paternity-test blood sample so that he could avoid paying maintenance for his child by another woman. A court was told yesterday.

Timothy Anderson, 24, and Elizabeth Mills, 33, sent a sample from another man for analysis. Carol Thomas, 42, who had become pregnant when she and Mr Anderson had been lovers, complained to Medway NHS Trust and the police when the test showed that he was not the father of her daughter.

Mr Anderson was arrested and another sample taken. This proved that he was almost 6,000 times more likely to be the child's father than any other man.

Mr Anderson, of Lenham, Kent, denies committing an act intended to pervert the course of justice between May 1994 and June 1995. Ms Mills, a mother of three who lives with him, has admitted the same charge and will be sentenced at the end of his trial at Maidstone Crown Court.

The jury was told that Mr Anderson and Mrs Thomas met in January 1993 and, by March that year, she was pregnant. Mr Anderson asked her to have an abortion, but the baby girl was born in November. When the Child Support Agency obliged Mr Anderson to have a blood test, he swapped the samples. The trial continues.



Hall, left, said he shot Hartley fearing he had a knife

Farmer says he fired at burglar in self-defence

By KATE ALDERSON

A FARMER who marked his property with the sign "Never mind the dog, beware of the owner", fired at a burglar with a 12-bore shotgun, a court was told yesterday.

Kenneth Hall, 63, shot at Neil Hartley, 32, who had broken into a car on his isolated farm at Thurstonland in the Pennine Hills above Huddersfield. Hartley suffered wounds to his shoulder, jaw and tongue and spent four days in hospital.

Mr Hall told police the gun had gone off accidentally as the burglar came towards him in the early hours of June 25 last year. He said he acted in self-defence because he feared the burglar had a knife.

Mr Hall yesterday denied causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He also pleaded not guilty at Bradford Crown Court to causing grievous bodily harm without intent.

Hartley, described as a thief and a burglar, admitted theft at Huddersfield Magistrates' Court last December. He was given community service and ordered to pay Mr Hall £27 compensation.

Graham Hyland, for the prosecution, said that Mr Hall had fired a security system after a spate of break-ins.

Hartley, from Huddersfield, had awoken from a drunken sleep and decided to find cars from which to steal.

He walked 3½ miles to Mr Hall's farm in the belief that secluded property was less likely to be locked. Hartley said that he had not intended to burgle houses and had found £27 in the dashboard of a car parked in Mr Hall's driveway.

After taking the money he saw a light in the farmhouse. Hartley said: "There was a silhouette in the doorway. I didn't see if he had anything in his hands. I ran back up the drive. He shouted 'Stop!', but I kept running. I saw a blue flash in my left eye and heard a large bang. I carried on running and it was like being hit with a sledgehammer. I didn't know what it was."

Hartley, who was bleeding heavily, realised that he had been shot and hid in undergrowth before giving himself up to police.

Mr Hall was arrested and told police that he was aiming over the intruder's head when his gun went off. He said that Hartley had warned him he had a knife, a claim which Hartley denies.

The case continues.

Writer's killer claims crime of passion

By ADAM FRESKO

A FASHION journalist was stabbed to death by her former lover who refused to accept the end of their relationship, an inquest was told yesterday.

Rudolf de Beillean is said to have admitted murdering Elizabeth Prangnell, 46, from Eastbourne, in her apartment in Paris, slashing her twice in the neck with a butcher's knife, but claimed it was a crime of passion.

The inquest at Eastbourne was told that M de Beillean, 26, told police he had been unable to believe that their relationship had ended and began to stalk Ms Prangnell, continually pestering her at her flat.

The coroner's officer read a report from the French police which said that, after Ms Prangnell refused to meet him, he let himself into her home when she returned from work three days before Christmas last year and attacked her, shaking her by the neck before stabbing her. After the killing he rang his mother, who alerted the police. His trial will take place next year. The coroner returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Ms Prangnell had lived in Paris for 20 years, working for *Le Figaro* before recently turning freelance. Her father, William, of Westham, East Sussex, who lost an eight-year-old son when he was hit by a car, said yesterday: "The last time we saw her was a couple of weeks before Christmas when she came over with her boyfriend. We disliked him intensely. Apparently she tried to get rid of him when they got back, but he broke into her flat and killed her."

He said that his daughter, who had been married three times, "was a wonderful girl and it has broken our heart what has happened. We still cannot believe it." She had gone to France as an artist after studying at colleges in Eastbourne and London. "When she went out to France they sent her all around the world on jobs," her father said.

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"I looked at high tech and low tech. Then, eventually, by drawing on everyone's



experience, I chose the equipment I knew I could trust."

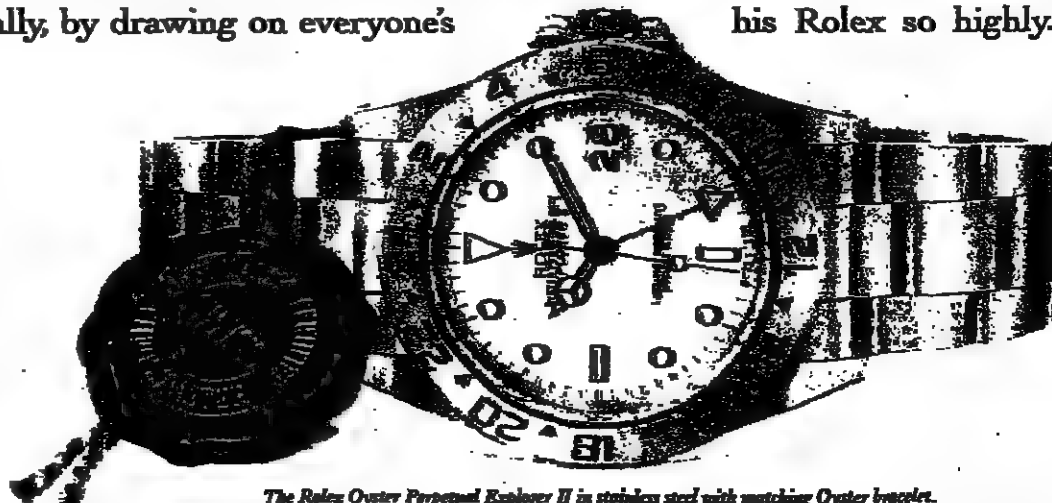
So not surprisingly, Erling Kagge chose a Rolex Explorer II. "I knew instinctively that it was the right watch," he says. "It's built to withstand almost anything. It's the only thing that's been on all the trips with me and it's never once let me down."

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Maybe that's why he values his Rolex so highly.

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Actor's dog is brought to heel

By KATE ALDERSON

WILLIAM ROACHE, who plays Ken Barlow in *Coronation Street*, has agreed to obey a court order to control his Jack Russell terrier after a neighbour's dog was savaged to death.

Mr Roache, 64, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, did not appear before Macclesfield magistrates, but agreed through his solicitor to keep Cindy, his Jack Russell, under "proper control". Patrick

McKnight, for the prosecution, told the court that in July Cindy and Harvey, Mr Roache's Labrador, attacked Corrie, a Yorkshire terrier belonging to Audrey Jolley, 83, who was walking her two terriers near the Roaches' home.

"Both ran at the eldest of her dogs and attacked it together, and effectively pulled it apart," Mr McKnight said. Corrie had to be put down. Mr McKnight told magistrates there had been previous problems involving the Labrador,

which Mr Roache had agreed to have destroyed. David Crank, for Mr Roache, said Cindy had previously been well behaved and, since the attack, Mr Roache and his wife, Sara, had taken steps to secure it.

Mrs Roache said after the case that she was happy with the result. "But in some ways Cindy was not guilty... She was inspired by Harvey the Labrador. Cindy was present when it happened... but she was just barking."

Beef farmers call for cull of all herds with BSE

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BEEF farmers have called for a radical extension of the cattle cull, including the option of slaughtering entire herds that have had even one case of "mad cow" disease.

In the first serious rift within the cattle industry, a breakaway group of beef farmers said that the cull should certainly include the slaughter of all calves born to cows that have died of BSE. Dairy farmers are bitterly opposed to any wholesale slaughter of cattle herds and question the need for killing the progeny of BSE cows, despite evidence that some calves may have caught the disease from their dams.

The Ministry of Agriculture is understood to be considering culling only the last calves born to cows with BSE, which could involve killing 30,000 more animals than the 147,000 identified as being at special risk of developing the disease.

The rebel alliance, called Farming Collaboration, yesterday accused the mainstream National Farmers' Union and the Government of pampering dairy farmers and

ignoring the interests of the beef sector. Fraser MacLeod, who heads Farming Collaboration, which was set up earlier this year to represent about 20,000 beef farmers in Scotland and the hill regions of the rest of Britain, said: "The single-industry policy adopted so far by the Government has worked against our interests. We have tried to lobby through the National Farmers' Union on behalf of our members, but this has not worked. Now we feel we must put our own case. If that upsets some people, so be it."

Mr MacLeod, who is also director of the Scottish Crofters' Union, added: "In herds that have had a case of BSE in animals born on the farm, the option of slaughtering the whole herd should be carefully considered."

Many beef farmers feel they have been asked to carry the can for dairy farmers, whom they see as mainly responsible for creating the BSE problem by the intensive feeding of meat and bonemeal. This practice, now banned, is thought to have transmitted

scrapie — a similar disease in sheep — to cattle.

Dairy farmers, whose herds have had more than 90 per cent of BSE cases, have escaped relatively unscathed because they have been able to continue selling milk and have been compensated for the destruction of cows over 30 months old which used to go into the food chain. But specialist beef farmers, 85 per cent of whom have had no BSE cases, have seen cattle prices drop by up to a third and feel they have received inadequate help from the Government and the European Union.

Alastair Davy, who keeps a herd of 85 Limousin beef cows in Swaledale, North Yorkshire, and is a member of the breakaway alliance, said: "Farmers like me are desperately worried about what will happen in the autumn sales. Many of us have been holding animals back in the hope that prices would improve. I have never had a case of BSE, but at the moment I am looking at prices of about 115p a kilogram liveweight, compared with

160p last year, when I need at least 120p to break even. We have got to have a stricter cull policy and clear this disease right out of the national herd if we are to restore the market."

Last month the Government announced a £12 million aid package for beef farmers, partly funded by the EU. This included £29 million to offset lower prices, but will cover only cattle sold before June 30 and amount to no more than £60 an animal.

Beef farmers, who say their losses have averaged closer to £300 an animal, are demanding more aid and want it to continue throughout the autumn because prices are showing little sign of recovery.

Martin Burt, chairman of the NFU's livestock committee, who keeps dairy cattle and sheep near Whitby, North Yorkshire, said: "I take strong exception to the suggestion that the NFU has not been fighting just as hard for beef farmers. If we do not maintain a united front, everyone will lose out. The dairy and beef industries are totally interlinked."



Burning the flag: "The basic feeling is that the British have dumped a huge cowpat on our doorstep"

Britain blamed in German fury

FROM PETER BILD IN BONN

GERMANY has announced still tighter controls on British cattle, amid fears of a collapse in consumer confidence in milk and milk products.

Anti-British feeling has spread among German farmers since a wave of flag-burning was sparked by

Britain's latest admission last Friday that BSE can be transmitted from cows to calves. Now the new controls mean that the farmers may not slaughter or sell the last-born offspring of cows from British herds where there has been one case of BSE.

German farmers will have to register these cows, which

will be monitored by the authorities. Bonn ministry experts also want the existing selective cull agreed by Britain to be extended to the last-born offspring of all cattle from herds where there has been one case of BSE.

Two states are applying the same rules to all calves from herds without a BSE-free certificate. Jochen Borchert, the Agriculture Minister, went out of his way to reassure consumers that milk, cheese and chocolate were safe. He advised Germans who wanted to be really sure to buy only German milk products.

The latest admission by Britain was simply the last straw for many Germans. Jann Dircks, a cattle farmer in Schleswig-Holstein, near the Danish border, was a speaker at a protest meeting when Union Flags were burned and calls were made for Britain to be thrown out of the European Union. He has a herd of 180 pure German-bred red whites, but the price he is getting at slaughter has fallen as sales of beef slumped 20 per cent.

"The British Government is to blame," he said. "They have

failed to get a grip on the problem. Through their inattention and sloppy pursuit of selfish economic interests, they have ignored the fears of consumers. I accuse Britain of being selfish, but we have to solve the problem together in Europe. Chucking the British out isn't the answer."

Anti-British feeling has deep roots in the farming community. "They grab advantages for themselves and deny them to us," he said. Last year Britain agreed financial measures to compensate German farmers for the devaluation of the pound and the revaluation of the mark, he added.

That anti-British resentment is heightened, he feels, because British farmers who have their animals culled get 75 per cent of the compensation for out of EU funds.

Thomas Graue, chief reporter of a local newspaper, said that he had never seen such tension in Schleswig-Holstein, where people are known for the placid ways: "The basic feeling is that the British have dumped a huge cowpat on our doorstep."



Dr Thomas Stuttaford surrounded by a hostile audience on Esther Rantzen's show last night

Why a diagnosis of ME can be a danger to patients

AN INVITATION by Esther Rantzen to appear on her programme last night to discuss the chronic fatigue syndrome known as ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis) was about as welcome to me, as a doctor, as an invitation to meet the lions would have been to a Christian in Roman times.

Ms Rantzen has written extensively about her daughter's troubles with ME, and whatever the nature of the illness there is no doubt from Ms Rantzen's description that it has severely and worryingly disabled her daughter.

Ms Rantzen has never made any secret of her conviction that ME is a distinct disease with a physical cause and that one of the reasons there is no cure is that research is inadequate and that traditional doctors are half-hearted in their search for a cure.

I suspect that I was chosen by Ms Rantzen as a representative of the typical, probably reactionary, doctor practising traditional medicine who characterised the majority, nearly 75 per cent, of doctors who according to a survey conducted by her programme didn't think that ME was a distinct disease with a physical cause.

Politics have prepared me for difficult, noisy meetings, and audiences with inflexible opinions. However, with the possible exception of the time I spoke to shop stewards in a railway marshalling yard during a strike, I don't think that I have ever met such aggression and stubborn refusal to listen to, let alone understand, any opinion that was contrary to their own. It was interesting how many of those taking part in the programme — relatives as well as ME sufferers — had a history of psychiatric illness themselves.

During the past few years research has purported to prove that ME is caused by a

single physical agent that produces distinctive physical or chemical signs characteristic of the disease and of nothing else. These "breakthroughs" are, after further investigations, dismissed. A recurring problem in ME research is that sufferers have such disordered and abnormal lives that it would not be unexpected if steroid and other biochemical substances were present in unusual quantities.

The viewpoint determined by the ME Association has dangers. There must be few doctors, certainly none who look after large numbers of younger patients, who haven't seen examples of ME diagnoses that have thereby denied patients treatment that when later prescribed has restored their health.

The second, probably greater, danger is to the many patients who have psychiatric illnesses. To have these diseases — including depressive illness in its various forms, disabling as they often are — belittled by such terms as "only in the mind" and as "malingering", is at best offensive and at worst very damaging to all the efforts that have been made to improve the lot, and treatment, of the psychiatric patient.

People still have to learn that psychiatric disease can often produce very severe physical symptoms, which are not imaginary nor induced by malingering; but whether the changes that cause them have started as a reaction to psychological problems or a physical agent may be of secondary importance to finding a treatment.

□ The Rantzen Report — ME: the secret of an epidemic, was broadcast last night on BBC1.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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£20m gift to Oxford University jeopardised by city planners



The proposed business school, sited on playing field

By Ian Murray
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE largest donation ever made to Oxford University is in danger of being withdrawn. Wafic Said, the Syrian-born entrepreneur, wants his £20 million gift to be used towards building a business school in the heart of the university but the scheme has suffered foul of the city's development plan.

However, the council's planning department has said that a building on the playing field would be inappropriate. The threat to our green spaces is very real and the desire by some politicians to have prestigious buildings put up in the centre is not always in the best interests of the city. John Walker, head of the council's environmental services, said.

school would give Oxford a much-needed department, but influential opposition is growing, even though the university has already raised £8 million towards the total cost of £40 million. It wants the school ready for use in two years.

business school and, despite opposition, the plan is most likely to be approved. Gill Sanders, a university spokeswoman, said: "We want it in the centre so that it can be an integral part of the university and where it can draw on its faculties, such as law and medicine."

Opposition is also growing to plans for a new Unipart building at Cowley, just outside the city. This development is highly visible from the green belt even if it is not actually in it. Ian Scargill, a geography lecturer who is co-ordinating the efforts of the new working party, said: "Our argument is that even if it does not spoil a

Mother will not be told of cash offers in abortion case

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

A LEADING obstetrician is refusing to tell a patient that she is being offered thousands of pounds to change her mind about the abortion of one of her unborn twins.

Life, the anti-abortion group, is offering £1,000 from an anonymous donor to help the woman. Movement For Life, an Italian organisation, is willing to pay her £1,700 a year. But Phillip Bennett, of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, west London, will not pass on the offers to his patient, who has yet to abort her healthy 16-week-old foetus.

He told a Sunday newspaper that the woman was a 28-year-old single mother in "strained" circumstances who already has one child and cannot cope with two more. Professor Bennett agreed to perform what is believed to be the first selective abortion for social reasons because the mother would otherwise have chosen to abort both foetuses.

A spokesman for Hammer-smith Hospitals NHS Trust said: "Money isn't the issue. It is kind of them to offer and we will try and respond to them ourselves. But what we are not undertaking to do is to direct those offers to the woman in this case because that would break her confidentiality."

"Not everything is solved by a money offer. I cannot reveal what [Professor Bennett] is going to say to the patient, but the hospital and the professor are determined to keep her confidence. The quickest way of breaking that confidence would be by passing on to her these offers."

The trust said that significant details of the woman's identity had been disguised and it was unclear whether she would recognise herself from media reports.

The anti-abortion groups

denied they were bribing the woman to change her mind. Life has designed a package of emergency care for her. It is willing to find her accommodation in one of its homes for pregnant women and has offered her counselling.

A spokesman said: "We are setting up a national fund to help this woman and others like her who are frightened that they will not be able to survive financially, especially if they are having twins or triplets." The charity suggests she should have the twin adopted by a childless couple if she cannot afford to raise it.

Jack Scarisbrick, Life's chairman, said: "We would not want her to think we are trying to bribe her. We are trying to say: 'Please don't do something which is horrible, liable to haunt you forever and which is going to cause all sorts of trauma and grief.'"

There were 74 selective abortions in 1994 in Britain. They are usually carried out on women who are given

fertility drugs or test-tube treatments that produce multiple pregnancies. They are nearly always performed because the doctor has an abnormality or to reduce the chances of losing babies because the woman is carrying too many. This is the first known case of doctors agreeing to a selective abortion for social reasons.

The Multiple Births Foundation, based at Queen Charlotte's, counsels women who want selective abortions, although it denied knowledge of this case. The small charity, founded to help parents of twins, triplets and quadruplets, gives advice to women who want to abort one or several foetuses.

Jane Denton, its nursing director, said: "If anybody is considering this sort of procedure and contacts us, we would certainly be always willing to see them and discuss the whole procedure and help them look at both sides."

Women who asked it about selective abortion were usually expecting triplets or quadruplets, rather than twins. "The reason for considering the reduction on clinical grounds is clearly the greater risk to pregnancy and the children," Ms Denton said. "There is a much higher chance of a baby dying or being disabled because they are likely to be born prematurely. With twins there is still an increased risk." She denied that this meant there was abortion of demand of multiple pregnancies.

Although the charity operates from Queen Charlotte's, one of the few British hospitals specialising in selective abortions, Ms Denton said it did not send women for terminations to the experts on site. "We wouldn't refer anybody to a specific doctor."



Bennett has agreed to perform the abortion



The Duke and Duchess of York made their first public appearance together since their divorce was completed when they arrived with the Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice at Wentworth Golf Club in Surrey yesterday. The Duke was playing in a celebrity tournament for charity

Army deserter blew up barracks for IRA

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

A COOK who deserted the Army and joined the IRA admitted yesterday that he blew up a North Yorkshire barracks 22 years ago. Peter McMullen, 49, returned to Britain from the United States earlier this year after a long extradition battle.

He has said that he ultimately fell foul of the IRA when he refused to take part in a kidnapping plot following the bomb attack at the Clarendon Barracks in Ripon in March 1974. At York Crown Court, he was remanded in custody after a judge asked for reports about his life in the United States.

McMullen, born in Co Lon-

donderry and linked by marriage to a strongly republican family, admitted taking part in planting four bombs, each weighing up to 25lbs. They were left without warning at the barracks, the headquarters of the 38th Regiment of the Corps of Royal Engineers, which had many men serving in Northern Ireland. Three of the bombs went off, slightly injuring a Naafi manageress. The fourth was exploded by the Bomb Squad.

The former lance corporal was the son of an RAF gunner and spent much of his childhood on military bases in England, including Ripon. He met and married Eileen

Loughran, sister of Seamus Loughran, chairman of the Belfast Republican Clubs and later spokesman for the Provisional Sinn Féin in the city.

McMullen deserted from the Army in 1972, when he was a cook on attachment to The Parachute Regiment. He crossed into the Irish Republic from Londonderry and asked for asylum. He was later arrested and charged with possession of guns, but then bailed. The IRA called him "Pete the Para".

After the attack in 1974, he was arrested in Dublin and jailed on gun-possession charges. Released in 1977, he claimed he was pressed back



McMullen: fled to US

out the kidnapping, he was ordered to return to Dublin to appear before the IRA Court of Enquiry. Mr McMullen, a friend told him he had been secretly sentenced to death and he fled back to America.

In 1980, he was given permission to stay in the United States, triggering a long struggle by Britain to get him back. In March he flew voluntarily from New York, escorted by two officers from North Yorkshire Police.

McMullen leaned heavily on a stick as he entered York Crown Court, and spoke only to confirm his name and to plead guilty to four charges under the Explosives Act. Judge Myerson remanded him in custody until October.

Cancer vaccines go on trial

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE first cervical cancer vaccine will be tested in Britain next year, raising hopes for inoculations against a range of cancers.

A drugs company in Cambridge is to hold trials aimed at treating a virus linked to several sexually transmitted diseases, said the Cancer Research Campaign, which has also developed a vaccine for a virus which causes glandular fever in teenagers and cancers in transplant patients.

Cervical cancer, which affects 4,000 Britons each year

and kills a third of them, is more likely in women who lose their virginity early or have many sexual partners. In nine cases out of ten it is linked to the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is common in genital warts.

Cantab Pharmaceuticals will use the vaccine to treat some of the 18,000 women who fall smear tests each year because they have cervical dysplasia, an early form of the cancer. The injections will replace laser therapy or surgery, which can cause infertil-

ity. By targeting the HPV, researchers hope to prevent the cancer recurring.

Up to 15 per cent of cancers are linked to viruses, usually transmitted sexually or orally. Some that were once rare are common in AIDS sufferers.

The Cancer Research Campaign is seeking a drugs company to test a vaccine it has developed to prevent a virus blamed for glandular fever in teenagers and young adults and which can cause cancers in people whose immune systems are suppressed.

Cold War pictures used for study of global warming

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

PICTURES of Antarctica taken by American spy satellites in the 1960s are being used to measure changes in the ice-cap that might indicate global warming.

The images, which were declassified at the end of last year, are "a wonderful resource", Dr Kenneth Jezek, director of the Byrd Polar Research Centre at Ohio State University, said yesterday. They cover about 70 per cent of the Antarctic continent.

The photographs were taken by a series of spy satellites called Corona, Lanyard, and Argon, launched in the early 1960s in polar orbits to monitor Soviet military activity. While the northern hemisphere was their primary target, the opportunity was also taken to obtain pictures of Antarctica.

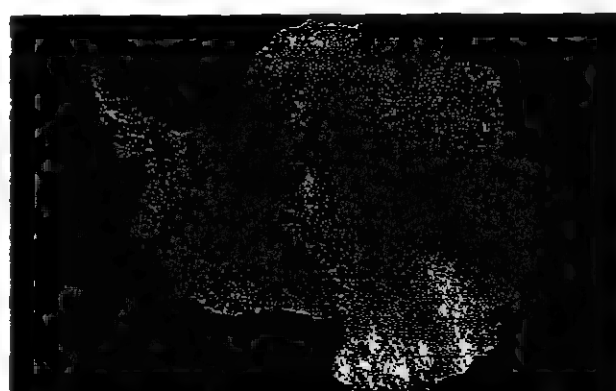
The pictures were taken on film, which was ejected from the satellite hundreds of miles up before floating earthwards under parachutes to be caught in mid-air by Hercules C-130

aircraft. The technique was later replaced by direct transmission of the data.

The pictures for comparison are being taken by a new satellite, launched late last year. Radarsat is a joint Canadian-American operation that will take images at radar wavelengths, enabling it to operate night or day and see through clouds.

The Radarsat data should be available in two years, enabling the extent and shape of the ice-cap to be measured and compared with the earlier records. No comprehensive survey yet exists of what is happening to the ice as temperatures rise, although observations from British Antarctic Survey bases have shown some big losses to the ice shelves.

Dr Jezek, speaking in Cambridge on the first day of an international conference on Antarctica, said that the old images had already been used to show a major change in the Ross Ice Shelf.



Spy film will show changes to Antarctic ice-cap

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BT will block lines to calling-card prostitutes

Number is up for vice adverts in phone boxes

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

PROSTITUTES who persistently advertise their services on cards in telephone boxes will have all calls to their numbers blocked. The crackdown follows hundreds of complaints from people offended by the increasingly lurid advertisements.

From the end of next month, security guards will start collecting the cards and feeding the numbers into a central computer. The subscribers will be warned to stop advertising in this way and made to give a written undertaking. If they persist, all incoming calls to their numbers will be stopped. They will still be able to ring out.

The numbers will be collected nationally, with Westminster, Brighton and Manchester as the initial target areas. BT is hiring security guards because past attempts by council employees led to threats from "carders" who make more than £100 a day placing the advertisements.

In Westminster alone, almost seven million cards a year are placed in the area's

700 public telephone boxes. In the past five years, the number removed by cleaners has increased from 50,000 to 150,000 a week, but they can reappear within minutes. The council logs hundreds of complaints from residents and visitors.

The new scheme has been worked out by BT lawyers in close liaison with council officers. A pilot scheme four years ago fell foul of Ofcom, the telephone regulator, which upheld a complaint by a prostitute that her line was illegally blocked. The contract of every telephone subscriber is now being altered by BT and every other operator, including Mercury, Nynex and Videotron, so that subscribers will be breaching their terms and conditions if they advertise their numbers in telephone boxes.

If a prostitute moves to a new flat with a new number, the same rules will apply. Bob Warner, director of BT Payphones, said: "This may be a nuisance to us, but it will be even more of a nuisance to a prostitute. If she persists, we

will refuse to give her a line when she moves again.

"We are not going to give up on this, and mean to go on until it is stopped. If it doesn't prove effective, then we will go back to the Home Office and emphasise the case for a change in the legislation."

Robert Moreland, the chairman of Westminster's Planning and Environment Committee, said that the increasingly graphic nature of the cards was causing offence, but the main concern was to tackle litter: "This is not an attack on the sex industry, but on something which is giving London an untidy, offensive image."

Inspector Robert Holmes, of the Metropolitan Police clubs and vice unit, said the cards were becoming nastier and more colourful all the time as girls competed for custom with explicit pictures. "Foreign visitors collect these cards and post them abroad," he said. "That makes London seem a sleazy and dirty place round the world. This initiative is important because the law as it stands is too weak. We need

the power to arrest the carders, confiscate their cards and take them off the streets. The offence should be recordable so that it goes into the national police computer, and repeat offenders can be punished accordingly."

Last year, Westminster was able to prosecute only 135 carders, who were each fined between £40 and £75. "They regard that as little more than an occupational hazard or a small tax on a very lucrative income," Mr Holmes said. The council has obtained an injunction against two persistent carders, but with more than 100 operating, it has made little difference.

"Kinky Gaiety", whose shiny, leather-clad shape could be seen on cards propped in payphones outside Westminster City Hall yesterday, said the new initiative would drive prostitutes on to the streets to solicit. "They don't like us hanging round corners waiting for customers, but if we can't do business on the phone, that is what will happen," she said.



Advertisements in a telephone box near Charing Cross Station yesterday

Helmet's lot is not a happy one

BY STEWART TENDLER

THE policeman's helmet beloved of tourists and traditionalists is under threat from health and safety regulations to be introduced next year.

It would, however, be sadly missed. The helmet is such a strong symbol of Britain that the British Tourist Authority recently considered an official approach to the police to keep it for the sake of tourism.

From 1997, in accordance with EU directives, police work will have to be assessed to see what risks officers face. Once they have been identified, all items of equipment, including the helmet, will be scrutinised to make sure they provide adequate protection. First issued in 1864 in London, the helmet is still made by traditional methods from rabbit fur, cork and glue.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has said he would prefer to keep the helmets because they are so distinctive. However, the tourist authority, with a hint of sadness, conceded: "Safety must come first."

Leading article, page 15

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Nowt so queer as the words some folk use

BY JOE JOSEPH

IT'S not because Cornishmen are inscrutable that they look at you in that way. It's just that they can't understand half of what you're saying.

That is the message of a new *Atlas of English Dialects* which finds that regional speech patterns have survived relatively unscathed. The book confounds linguists who predicted that dialects would die as BBC newsreaders offered benchmarks for pukka pronunciation, as television drama brought every local accent into our sitting rooms (*Coronation Street*, *Spender*, *Crossroads*), and as greater mobility made regional tongues obsolete.

Words retain a geographical reach beyond which they lose their punch. It's not what you know or who you know but what you say and how you say it. Henry Higgins could still place you within yards of your birthplace.

Today may be Tuesday to you, but it's Tioozday in Cornwall. Tioozday in Devon and East Anglia, and Choozday in much of Merseyside. And if you don't agree then you're just being silly, daft, addle-headed, cakey, soft, barmy or gormless. Unless you're from the Middlesbrough area, in which case you're plainly a little fond.

"Every time someone says that dialect has all gone, this is countered by new evidence that it persists," says John Widdowson, co-author of the atlas and Professor at Sheffield University's Centre for English Cultural Tradition.

Whether you throw a ball, or fling, chuck, heave, bain, pelt, cob, clod, hoy or yack it says more about you than cash ever can. Londoners have workmates. Tynesiders have madders; many people in Yorkshire spend their day with a pal, and in Somerset with a butty, but the Home Counties prefer mates.

When they get home they might lay the table for tea down south, but more likely set it further north, except for a few people in the northeast

who still like to fettle the tea, which is maybe what makes them seem quite so fond.

Grammatically, there are just we two, but most of England prefers us two, with pockets holding out for the two on us, the two of us, and thee and me. Why? Because that's the way we are, we am, we be, us be, we bin, or we am. Got that?

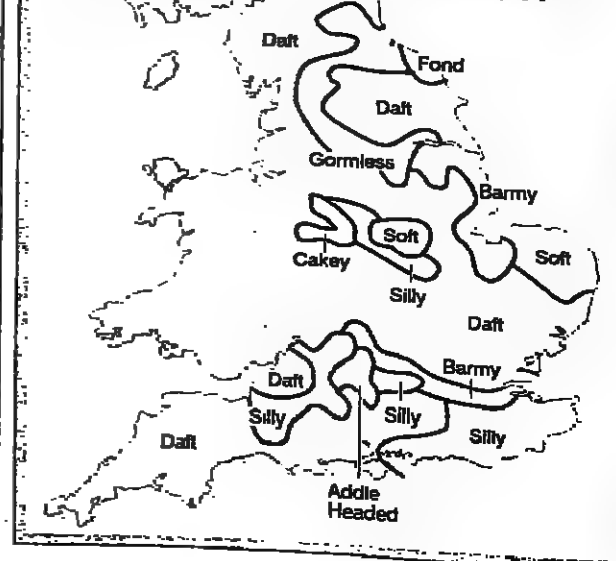
We can change our accents, but regional vocabulary is the slipping petticoat that betrays us. Margaret Thatcher may speak *Magpie* English now, but when she called the Labour Party "frit" she was letting the world know not only that the Opposition was frightened but that her tongue was tutored in Grantham.

The atlas, published later this month by Oxford University Press, is the fruit of nearly 50 years of research. The Survey of English Dialects began in 1948. Professor Widdowson, and Dr Clive Upton, his co-author and colleague at Sheffield, attribute the rich variety of dialects largely to the simple fact that English has been spoken in the country for upwards of 1,500 years. Even in North America, where English has been in use for some 400 years, there has been insufficient time for fragmentation of the language to occur.

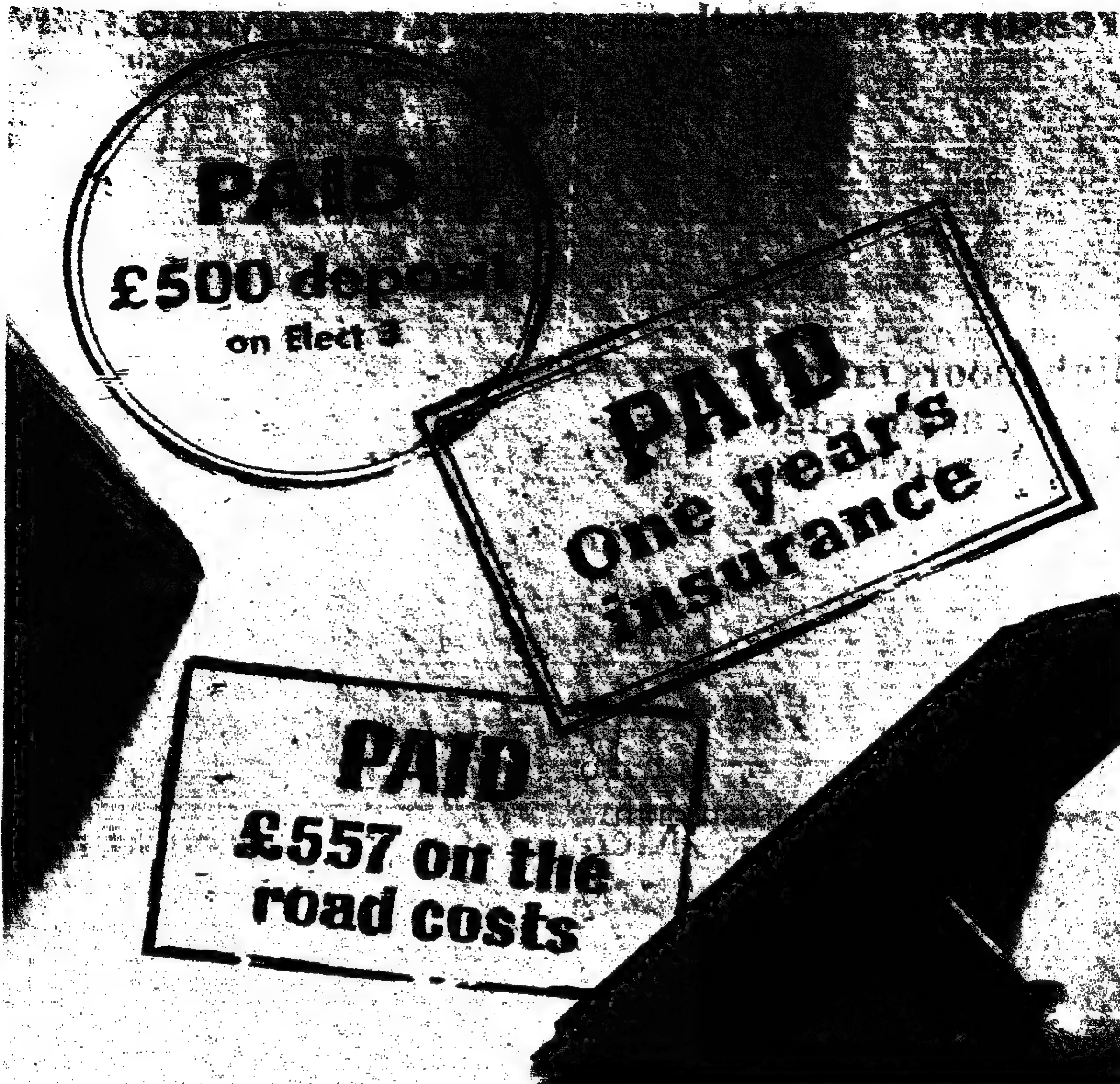
Women's names, for example, or words describing women, have often been applied to cats, especially she-cats. "Tib", common in north Yorkshire, was frequently used in the 16th and 17th centuries to describe any working-class woman, from sweethearts to prostitutes. "Betty", for "female cat" lingers in East Anglia.

So if some stranger tells you that the ewe cat he bought off a diddoy last week is thirl and a goosegob just won't satisfy her, don't be frit. He's only saying that the female cat that a gypsy sold him is so hungry that it'll take more than a gooseberry to fill her up. The stranger's not cakey. Just Cornish.

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Optimistic Israel offers peace deal to Syrians

US acts as broker with Damascus

By ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, disclosed yesterday that his Government had submitted a secret peace proposal to Syria via the United States and was hopeful of a positive reply.

The proposal was submitted on Friday, one day before Jordan's King Hussein held a reconciliation meeting with President al-Assad in Damascus. Before the meeting of the two Arab leaders, King Hussein held secret talks in London just over a week ago to discuss a strategy for reaching a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

The Israeli proposal appeared to have prompted intensive diplomatic activity. Yesterday Elias Hrawi, the Lebanese President, arrived in Damascus for surprise talks with Mr Assad to discuss relations with Israel.

Speaking in Amman yesterday during his first official trip to Jordan, Mr Netanyahu said the King had told him his meeting in Syria had provided

hope for the Middle East peace process. At a joint news conference with the King, Mr Netanyahu said: "What I learnt was that there was a clear expression of a desire to resume the quest for peace in Damascus, and that is encouraging."

"It is something that we will readily take up. We are prepared to engage in peace negotiations with Syria on all outstanding matters... our purpose is to achieve a formal peace with Syria."

Mr Netanyahu also defended his policy of wanting to make peace with Lebanon before Syria, which would include a negotiated Israeli troop withdrawal from south Lebanon in return for peace along the border.

"We have no territorial claims on Lebanon whatsoever, all we seek to achieve on the Lebanon border [with Israel] is tranquility and security," he said. "And if this is agreed on by others, it can be a very good starting point to



Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, reviews a Beduin guard of honour in Amman yesterday

build trust and confidence with Syria to help negotiations."

Israel's peace talks with Syria and Lebanon, which began in 1991, have been stalled for some time over the fate of the strategic Golan Heights, captured by Israel

during the 1967 war, and the future of south Lebanon which has been under Israeli occupation since 1981.

Relations between Syria and Israel were further complicated by the election of Mr Netanyahu, who has declared publicly that he would never

give up the Golan and is opposed to swapping land in return for peace.

Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, where it has stationed more than 30,000 troops, and Lebanon are demanding that Israel withdraw from the Golan and

south Lebanon before they will agree to sign peace treaties.

Before his meeting with King Hussein there were some strong emotional moments for both the Jordanian and Israeli leaders. Mr Netanyahu laid a wreath at the graves of the

King's grandfather, Abdullah, and father, Fakhri King Abdullah, who favoured peace with Israel, was assassinated in 1951 as he entered Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque. King Hussein, then 15 years old, was standing next to him. Following these ceremonies, Mr Netanyahu and the King also discussed bolstering the economic links between the two countries.

The King told Mr Netanyahu that Jordanians needed to see a greater economic dividend from the peace treaty Jordan signed with Israel in 1994. The King raised the issues of trade, investment and water.

In particular, Jordan demanded that Israel allow greater export quotas, especially of cement, into Palestinian territories. On the question of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mr Netanyahu had some good news for the Palestinians.

The Israeli leader said he and Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, had decided to ease closure of these areas, enabling another 5,000 Palestinian workers to travel to jobs inside Israel.

"We don't apply closure in principle... it is a measure of security that fluctuates according to the conditions," he said.

Israel had already begun easing the closure on the territories imposed after a wave of suicide bombings in February and March, which left more than 50 people dead.

Mr Netanyahu also said that Israel could begin talks with the Palestinians in a few weeks on a promised troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Yesterday Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, revealed that he had written to Mr Netanyahu to complain that the Israeli Government's decision to renew settlement building in occupied Arab land violated the peace process.

"I have sent him [Netanyahu] a letter and made this letter available to all our friends, including the sponsors of the peace process, America and Russia," Mr Arafat said. "What happened is a violation of what had been agreed upon. It was agreed to freeze the expansion of settlements and not to bring about any demographic or topographic changes during the interim period."

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a Hezbollah mortar attack in south Lebanon yesterday. They suffered minor wounds and were airlifted to Israel for treatment.

Police outwitted by Indonesia's opposition leader

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

SEVEN shirt-sleeved lawyers emerged beaming from police headquarters in Jakarta yesterday after successfully challenging a summons for Indonesia's pro-democracy leader to submit herself for interrogation.

They did so by raising a series of legal flaws in the document, calculated to irritate the military-backed Government, which is unsure how to handle such deliberate low-key defiance.

Megawati Sukarnoputri was to have appeared at 10 am. An hour and ten minutes later her lawyers arrived and explained why she would not attend. The police admitted their summons contained a number of technical deficiencies and said they would issue another in the coming days. If it is in order, Miss Megawati plans to comply.

The twist in the cat-and-mouse game between an all-powerful Government and opposition is another small triumph for Miss Megawati, whose father, Sukarno, was the country's founding President. What remains to be seen is whether she will be charged with a criminal offence relating to riots by her supporters on June 27, which caused millions of pounds-worth of damage in central Jakarta.



Megawati: urban poor are main supporters

She has touched a nerve of public opinion, at least among the urban poor who are the bedrock of her support. Government figures published yesterday showed that only 60,000 out of 170,000 university graduates find work each year and most of the rest remain unemployed indefinitely. "Unemployment among clever people is dangerous," Abdul Latief, the Minister of Manpower, said.

Jakarta looks like many South-East Asian "tiger" cities, with feverish construction, traffic congestion and huge wealth. Beyond the capital and other big Indonesian cities, however, 30 million people live in a country of 191 million live in "absolute poverty" by World Bank definitions. In 20 years, gross domestic product has risen 900 percentage points and the World Bank has lifted its income status from low to "lower-middle".

But this has eluded the huge urban underclass. More than 48 per cent of people in Jakarta have no access to drinkable water or primary health services, yet there is a continuing flood of people to the capital and other cities. Within seven years more than half the population will be urban, further straining overstretched infrastructure and threatening greater popular unrest. Miss Megawati draws increasing support from middle classes frustrated by high-level corruption and resentment at vast wealth accumulated by President Suharto's family and friends. But without army support there is almost no prospect of a popular opposition movement taking hold in Indonesia.

Japanese take a break from the work ethic

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

IN HOT and sultry cities across Japan, workers are being coaxed by the Government to leave their desks and work benches and enjoy a proper summer holiday.

Labour Ministry posters in railway stations and company canteens exhort employees to "Take the Dive - relax properly. Have a complete week off and feel refreshed." In government-sponsored lectures, workers are taught how to relax for a week.

Japan is renowned for its work ethic, but the summer campaign is part of a government drive to bring overall working hours closer to the US and British average. Japanese work 200 more hours a

year. Many business leaders support the campaign because a better balance between work and leisure helps to increase employees' efficiency.

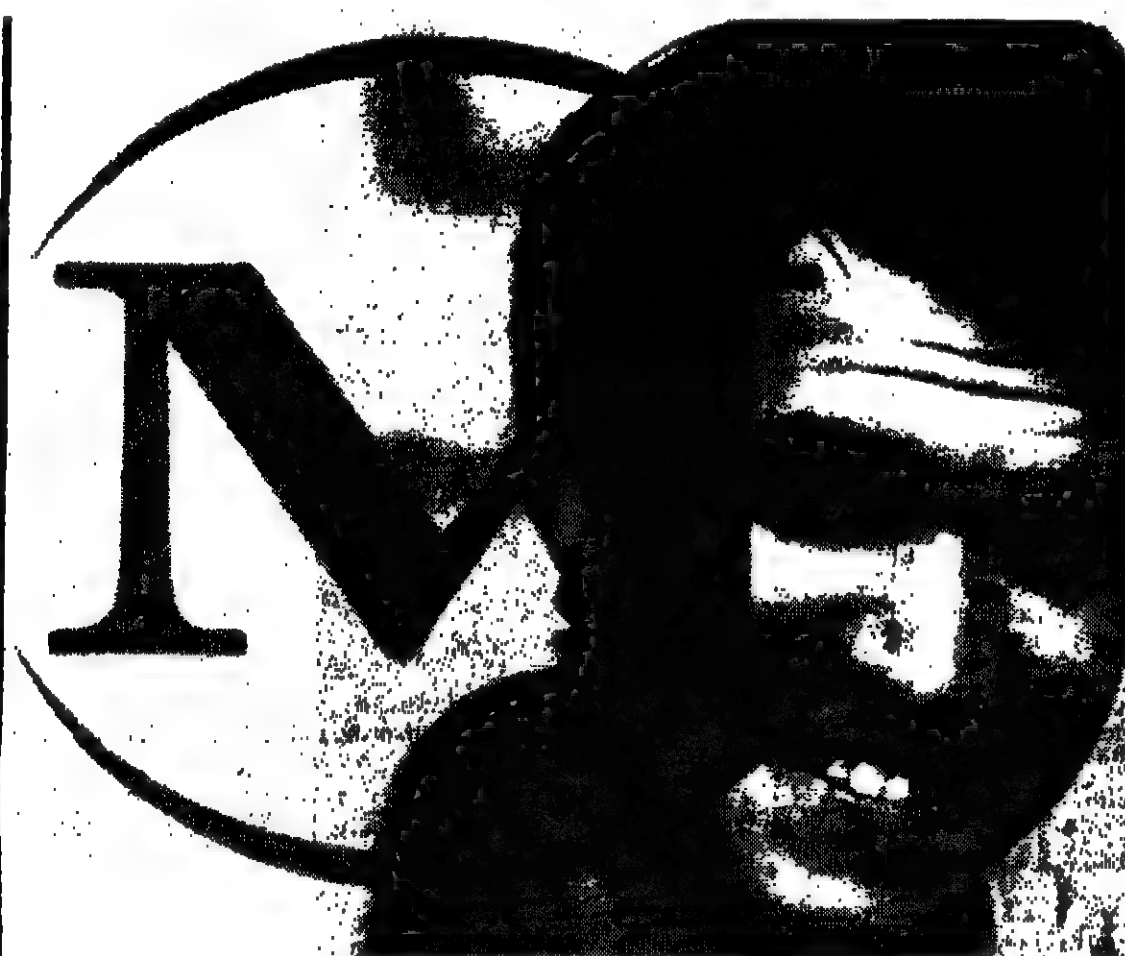
On average, workers here only take about 60 per cent of their annual paid holiday entitlement, fearful of putting an extra burden on colleagues and damaging promotion prospects.

Managers at Mitsubishi Oil, discovering that most staff took only half their 20-day annual vacation, decided to impose fines for each day they failed to take off. The idea was so successful that employees took almost all their holiday due.

Mitsubishi Chemical cancelled all company meetings and conferences scheduled for the first half of this month.

"If there are no meetings to attend, people won't feel they're missing anything," a spokesman explained.

"I take three days off in summer and I wouldn't know what to do with myself if I had longer," Hajime Ishii, a garage mechanic, said. "To take longer would inconvenience everyone else in the garage."



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Dole pledges huge tax cuts in attempt to gain on Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE called for one of history's largest tax cuts yesterday in a breathtaking attempt to galvanise his faltering presidential campaign.

Mr Dole, who spent much of his 27-year Senate career championing deficit reduction, proposed a package of cuts worth \$548 billion (£353 billion) over six years as the long-awaited centrepiece of his White House bid. This would include a 15 per cent across-the-board reduction in personal income taxes benefiting an estimated 90 million Americans.

Mr Dole, who trails President Clinton by about 20 points, clearly hopes the tax cut promise will work the same political magic for him as it did for his Republican predecessors Ronald Reagan and George Bush in the 1980s, and he certainly managed to draw a dramatic distinction between himself and Mr Clinton for the first time in this election.

Donald Rumsfeld, one of his top campaign advisers, called the announcement "the beginning of the campaign for 1996", and predicted: "You're going to see the polls close dramatically." On Saturday Mr Dole reveals his running mate. Next week he will be formally nominated at the Republican convention in San Diego.

Steve Forbes, who lost to Mr Dole in the Republican presidential primaries but is now acting as one of his advisers, said: "This will be the equivalent of Moscow in 1941 — the first major check of the German army. It doesn't mean Dole is going to win the campaign. But it is the first time Clinton ceded major ground."

However, the White House mounted a swift and savage counter-offensive, calling Mr Dole's tax-cutting package the "absolutely irresponsible" ploy of a desperate politician, and ridiculing his claims that

THE MAIN PROPOSALS

□ Personal income tax rates will be lowered by 15 per cent in three steps starting in 1997, providing tax relief across the board.

□ Maximum capital gains taxes on individuals will be lowered to 14 per cent from 28 per cent to stimulate saving and investment.

□ A \$500 credit for every child 18 years of age and younger will be provided to low- and middle-income families.

□ An expansion of Individual Retirement Accounts. Tax-free incentives for job training and investing in education.

□ Repeal of President Clinton's 1993 tax hike on Social Security benefits.

he could simultaneously balance the federal budget.

Mr Clinton insisted the tax cuts would "balloon" the deficit, raise interest rates and weaken the economy, and vowed to fight any attempt to repeat the mistakes of the tax-slashing 1980s when the national debt quadrupled to \$4,000 billion.

White House aides gleefully produced numerous examples of Mr Dole mocking the supply-side economists of the Reagan era who argued that tax cuts produced enough economic growth to offset lost revenues. Mr Dole deserved "the gold medal for the flip-flop," said Leon Panetta, Mr Clinton's chief of staff.

The President is vulnerable on the tax issue, having abandoned his election promise of middle-class tax cuts in favour of deficit reduction, but polls suggest most voters are content with his economic stewardship and it is far from certain they will embrace Mr Dole's more daring package.

Americans are far more suspicious of politicians' promises than they were in Mr Reagan's day, especially after President Bush reneged

on his solemn "no new taxes" vow. They are also far more worried by the corrosive economic effects of a national debt that now exceeds \$5,000 billion.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* poll showed that 70 per cent would regard a 15 per cent income tax cut as a campaign gimmick, not a serious policy proposal, and yesterday's *New York Times* — anticipating Mr Dole's announcement — called it "fiscally reckless".

Mr Dole, speaking in Chicago, portrayed his tax cut package as part of a comprehensive plan to replace the "anaemic" expansion of recent years with much more robust economic growth that would raise living standards for all Americans.

The 15 per cent income tax reductions, reducing the top and bottom rates to 33.7 and 12.8 per cent respectively, would be phased in over three years from 1997 and cost \$406 billion. Mr Dole also promised a \$500-per-child tax credit for families, a halving of the capital gains tax rate, tax breaks for education and training, a simpler tax code and a less intrusive Internal Revenue Service.

Mr Dole insisted he could achieve all this without further cuts in government health care, social security and defence programmes, and still meet the Republicans' goal of a balanced budget by 2002. He said the economic growth resulting from the cuts would generate an estimated \$146 billion in new revenues, and the Republican Congress has already identified \$122 billion in spending cuts. But the Dole campaign offered only sketchy details of how the remaining \$290 billion in required savings could be found.

Mr Dole put his package together with the help of John Taylor, a Stanford University economist, and Gary Taylor, a Nobel laureate. Laura Tyson, Mr Clinton's chief economic adviser, called the plan "incredible, simply incredible. It will simply blow a huge hole in the deficit".



Stunt pilot dies after wing disintegrates

Clarence "Clancy" Speal, a stunt pilot, plummeted towards the Ohio river on Sunday evening, after the port double wing sheared away from his biplane during an aerobatics display in Pittsburgh. The police failed to recover his body at the crash site, left (Quentin Letts writes).

Mr Speal, whose family were watching his stunts at the Three Rivers Regatta, was presumed dead. The crash was filmed by an amateur cameraman and the biplane's descent was broadcast on American television. Mr Speal was described as an experienced pilot and no reason was given for the disintegration of the wing.

Jet bomb may have been in transplant container

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

A BOMB may have been hidden in an organ transplant cool box which was loaded on TWA Flight 800 shortly before take-off, it was suggested yesterday.

A Styrofoam box containing human corneas was meant to have been taken aboard the jumbo jet moments before the doors were closed at John F. Kennedy airport in New York. A newspaper yesterday reported that a crash investigator it did not name feared that the real box was switched for a similar one containing a bomb.

The corneas were intended for a hospital in Paris and Flight 800 was designated as a transplant-carrying flight, which normally ensures that planes are given special consideration by air traffic control and airports to make the transportation of human organs as swift as possible.

Transplant boxes are normally placed in cockpits, to safeguard them and to ensure that they can be taken off the plane as quickly as possible on landing. The TWA jet appears to have crashed after something ripped off the front of the plane while it was still climbing.

"If we find there is Styrofoam all over the cockpit we will have to go back and take a very close look to see if there was a switch of the box's contents," a crash investigator told the *New York Post*. It was not known if the box was properly searched, the newspaper said. With human organs, security guards may have preferred to let the box through without opening it, and security consultants yesterday asked questions about the level of scrutiny of baggage at American airports.

Forensic scientists yesterday set to work untangling the wreckage of the cockpit which was brought to the surface of Moriches Bay after being located by a remote-controlled search vehicle at the weekend. Robert Francis, vice-chairman of the US National Transport Safety Board, described the latest, important piece of wreckage as "a mass of spaghetti-like wires" and predicted that it would take some time to untangle. He urged people to be patient and understand the difficulties of the investigation.

James Kallstrom, assistant director of the FBI, said: "To see that massive jumble of wires certainly brought home to me how difficult it is going to be if the rest of the front of the plane looks like that."

Recovery workers have found 194 bodies of the 230 people who died in the crash.

US sanctions against Iran and Libya anger allies

BY TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON
AND MICHAEL BINTON

UNDER pressure from Republicans to take military action against Tehran, President Clinton yesterday announced sanctions designed to punish foreign investment in Iran and Libya, triggering another row with Britain and other American allies in Europe.

The President urged the allies to unite behind a common resolution to punish countries that export terror. "The United States has to act. I hope that some day soon people will realise that you cannot do business by day with countries who are killing your people by night," he said.

In a speech later he added: "Stopping the threat of terrorism requires a common resolution. Where we do not agree, the US cannot and will not refuse to do what we think is right."

Mr Clinton, in signing the

legislation sponsored by Alfonse D'Amato, the leading Republican senator, described Iran and Libya as "two of the most dangerous supporters of terrorism in the world". The embargo, requiring the President to impose sanctions on foreign companies that invest \$40 million (£25 million) or more annually in the energy sectors of Iran and Libya, comes a month after the US provoked a diplomatic row with its allies over the Helms-Burton Bill, which punish-

es foreign investment in Cuba. European states voiced strong opposition to the latest sanctions, and gave a warning of retaliation. At the same time officials in Britain said that any talk of airstrikes against Iranian targets in response to the destruction of the TWA plane and the bombing of an American base in Saudi Arabia was premature. They said there was still no conclusive proof linking Iran with the atrocities.

France said that it would vigorously defend its national interests. A Foreign Ministry spokesman promised retaliation for any damage to French trade, and said Washington had not given its allies any evidence that Iran was involved in the attacks.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We agree that there should be a common Western policy on Iran and Libya. But we cannot accept US pressure to impose sanctions under the threat of mandatory penalties."



D'Amato: sponsor of US legislation to punish investment in Iran and Libya

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EU battles to salvage Mostar deal

BY MICHAEL BINTON
AND EYE-ANN PRENTICE

EUROPEAN Union negotiators were yesterday frantically trying to prevent the breakdown of attempts to broker a Croat-Muslim compromise in the divided city of Mostar. They fear that if the EU is forced to withdraw only six weeks before scheduled general elections in Bosnia, the entire Dayton peace process will be thrown in jeopardy.

The refusal of Croats in Mostar to accept the results of elections to the city council is seen as setting an ominous example to any other group in Bosnia which does not like the outcome of the poll on September 14. Croat intransigence in Mostar has left EU and American negotiators frustrated. President Tudjman of Croatia was summoned to Washington last week to explain the impasse to President Clinton.

"What point is there holding elections in September if one side knows that if they are disappointed with the results, they can ignore the fact that the voting ever took place?" one American official said at the weekend.

The Mostar Croats complained that there were irregularities in the voting by Bosnian refugees allowed to cast ballots in Bonn. Their complaints were investigated and rejected by the EU ombudsman, who said they were too trivial to bother about.

The Croat HDZ party and the Muslim-led SDA party each won 16 seats, but the balance of power still went to the SDA when five independents aligned with the Muslims.

Leading article, page 15

Bomb suspect threatens to sue FBI

BY QUENTIN LETTS

RICHARD JEWELL, the security guard suspected by the FBI of planting the bomb at the Atlanta Olympics, took legal action yesterday in an attempt to force investigators to say what evidence, if any, they have against him.

An increasingly angry Mr Jewell hired a second and more prominent lawyer, Jack Martin. His first lawyer, Watson Bryant, continued to make the rounds of television and radio stations, claiming that his client was "being hung out to dry" by the FBI. Mr Jewell was "mad as hell" with investigators.

Mr Martin, a former chairman of the Georgia Association of Defence Lawyers, suddenly made it a fairer match between the 500 government investigators — who have been trying to "psycho" their prey — and the suspect with his lone legal representative. Mr Bryant, a



Richard Jewell, in fatigues, poses with an M16

provincial attorney, has made a fair job of defending Mr Jewell, but admitted that he needed a senior lawyer to help him. Mr Martin yesterday asked the US attorney to unseat an

FBI search warrant affidavit which explains why law enforcers have taken such a strong, almost bullying line against a man who was initially hailed as a hero for finding the bomb in Atlanta's Centennial Park shortly before it exploded. Two people died in the incident, and more than 100 were injured.

On the advice of his lawyers, Mr Jewell is still refusing to give the FBI an official sample of his voice.

They want him to sit in front of a microphone and repeat, several times, the words of the mystery telephone caller who rang police 18 minutes before the bomb exploded to say: "There is a bomb in Centennial Park. You have 30 minutes." Voice-print machines, which examine timbre and cadence, may be able to deduce if Mr Jewell was the caller.

Mr Bryant did not rule out a lawsuit against the FBI by Mr Jewell and his mother if no strong evidence against him is disclosed.

He said that Mr Jewell's employment prospects as a security guard were now bleak. The elderly Mrs Jewell, meanwhile, felt that her reputation had been sullied.

Scorned Atlanta brought down to earth

ATLANTA emptied yesterday, as if the plug had been pulled from a vast bath (Quentin Letts writes). About 250,000 people flew out of its airport and countless others left by car and bus after the Centennial Olympics concluded with a colourful, three-hour closing ceremony.

The city came down with a bump after a fortnight of festivities, irritations and some sadness. There was anger that Juan Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), did not deliver his traditional compliment to the host city and describe the Games as "the greatest ever". Instead, he announced at the closing ceremony that they had been "most exceptional" — which Atlantans took as a terrible snub.

Schor Samaranch, along with many other international visitors, is said to feel that the Games were over-commercialised by Atlanta. As if in response, the Atlanta-based CNN television broadcast

repeated tributes to the city on its 24-hour news service.

Hotel receptionists struggled yesterday morning as guests left. Computer printer ribbons at the Marriott Marquis turned hot as they detailed the bills rung up by IOC members over the past fortnight. For many hotel, restaurant and shop employees, the end of the Games meant an end of work. Hundreds of buses which were lent to Atlanta by other US cities were fuelled and started the long trip home.

The security measures which were in place for the Games appeared to vanish the moment the Olympic flame was extinguished. IOC representatives returning to the city centre after the closing ceremony were surprised to find that the security checkpoints had been deserted. "Let us hope potential terrorists are as prompt in leaving town," said one Olympic delegate. Atlanta is now likely to go through a period of anti-climax —

"post-Olympic syndrome" as it is being called. Local people who pumped themselves up with Games excitement yesterday felt a sympathy for the giant inflatable beer-can advertisement which hovered over Atlanta and was yesterday pulled down to the ground and deflated. President Clinton detected Atlanta's hurt at Señor Samaranch's remarks and praised the city's "great effort". But the President, perhaps referring to the raw nationalism which characterised American television coverage of the Games, and the sometimes unattractive baying of "USA! USA!" by the crowds whenever a foreigner looked like doing well, also emphasised that it was important to praise all 197 countries that took part in the Olympics. "They all did their best," said Mr Clinton.

Letts, page 15
Sport, pages 38, 44

Horse cult
halted by
protests

Ready-to

Sacked minister's bribe allegations shock South Africa

FROM R.W. JOHNSON
IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA has been shocked by corruption allegations made by Bantu Holomisa, the recently dismissed deputy minister. His allegations implicate not only Steve Tshwete, a Cabinet minister, but also Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, and even President Mandela himself.

The African National Congress has been thrown into confusion by the affair, not only because Mr Holomisa is one of the party's most popular figures — topping the poll at the last party congress — but also because the affair could tarnish the President's image and perhaps even destroy Mr Mbeki's hopes of succeeding Mr Mandela.

The affair began with Mr Holomisa's allegation before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Stella Sigau, one of his Cabinet colleagues, had received 50,000 rands (£7,250) as part of a 2 million rands bribe paid to the former Transkei Government, in which she served, by Sol Kerzner, the hotel magnate, in return for government favours towards his casino interests there. Although Mrs Sigau has not denied receiving the payment, the ANC was embarrassed by the allegation and Mr Holomisa was not only threatened with disciplinary proceedings (thus bringing a furious response from the truth commission, whose entire purpose stands to be undermined by the affair), but was then also dismissed.

The commission says that nobody can be expected to come forward to give evidence if Mr Holomisa is so evidently punished for speaking out. Mr Holomisa's dismissal apparently happened at Mr Mbeki's order, because Mr Holomisa's suggestion that Mr Mbeki needed "to put

his own house in order" had greatly offended Mr Mandela's heir-apparent.

Mr Holomisa, who as the military President of the Transkei was famous for the cool way in which he answered back to former President P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk, has caused equal consternation by his similar outspokenness about his party's elite, alleging that Mr Kerzner also contributed 2 million rands towards the ANC's election fund in 1994 in return for a promise not to proceed with a pending court action against him: that he had been told that in a conversation with President Mandela, that Mr Tshwete had benefited from other Kerzner favours; and that Mr Kerzner, who owns the Sun City and Lost City resorts as well as extensive casino interests in the United States and around the Caribbean, had also paid for Mr

Mbeki's fiftieth birthday party.

Initially, the ANC denied all the allegations as malicious lies, but with Mr Holomisa standing his ground and threatening further disclosures, the response quickly became more muted. President Mandela's office now will only say that it is "immaterial" whether the conversation with Mr Mandela that Mr Holomisa refers to ever took place; that the question of who paid for Mr Mbeki's birthday party was a private matter; and that Mr Mbeki is entitled to his privacy. Mr Kerzner has said that it was his business whether he contributed to a political party's funds and that there was nothing illegal in that.

Mr Mbeki and Mr Tshwete have obtained a court order ordering Mr Holomisa not to repeat his allegations. Mr Holomisa has replied that he will happily see the two men in court.

It is certain that Mr Holomisa will be expelled both from parliament and the ANC, but there are grave misgivings about the affair within the ANC. Nobody has forgotten the press photographs of Mr Kerzner and Mr Mbeki celebrating together at Mr Mbeki's birthday party, and the press reported at the time that Mr Kerzner had paid both for this celebration and later for the glamorous wedding of President Mandela's daughter.

One ANC branch criticised Mr Mbeki publicly for his "perceived over-closeness" to Mr Kerzner, and there is no truly satisfactory answer on offer as to why the Government has never continued with the legal proceedings initiated many years ago against Mr Kerzner for alleged bribery.

South Africa now awaits more disclosures.

ANC rejects call for records audit

Johannesburg: The ruling African National Congress has rejected a call from Bantu Holomisa, the dismissed Deputy Minister, for an independent audit of the party's financial records after President Mandela was allegedly involved in a corruption scandal (Inigo Gilmore writes).

Mr Holomisa has called for an audit to determine how much money had been donated to the party by Sol Kerzner, the gambling and casino magnate.

Mr Holomisa said that Winnie Mandela, a close political ally, was one of several ANC leaders who had pledged their support for him.



A blazing Rashaad Staggie, who had already been shot once, tries to flee vigilantes. Minutes later he was dead

Vigilantes kill gang boss in Cape 'jihad'

BY INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MASKED Muslim vigilantes shot dead a notorious gang boss in Cape Town and set him alight as part of what community leaders described as a "jihad" against drug dealers.

Several hundred members of the Muslim vigilante group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs travelled in a convoy

from their mosque on Sunday to the home of Rashaad Staggie, a leader of the Hard Livingz, a notorious Coloured gang. When the vigilantes came under fire from the house, in the central Cape Town suburb of Salt River, they produced firearms and in the ensuing gun battle at least ten people were wounded.

During the shooting Mr Staggie's twin brother, Rashaad, arrived and was recognised as leader of the gang suspected of selling drugs to children. Vigilantes

surrounded his vehicle, pulled him out and shot him. Police stood by as he was set ablaze with a crude petrol bomb.

Staggie got up and, covered in flames, ran about 30 yards while the crowd shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greater). He fell to the ground again and as he lay writhing, a policeman doused the flames. Police pushed the mob back but despite appeals to stop, masked men took it in turns to pump bullets into Staggie until he was dead. No arrests were made.

Horse cull halted by protests

FROM JO ANDREWS
IN WELLINGTON

NEW Zealand's Prime Minister has bowed to public protests and the prospect of an October general election and dropped plans to shoot a thousand wild horses.

The cull was expected to begin this week. But now the horses will be rounded up and auctioned next year, after the election.

The Prime Minister, James Bolger, said yesterday: "Given that widespread public concern has arisen, we agreed that we should try to reduce numbers by a minister."

Mr Bolger and his Government had been under intense pressure. Death threats had been issued against staff due to be involved in the kill. A round-the-clock vigil for the horses was being held, and ministers are said to have received more letters of protest on the issue than any other in the country's history.

A TV advertisement had urged people not to vote for the Government. Yesterday Simon Upton, the Minister for Conservation who ordered the cull, offered his resignation, which was refused. Conservationists had argued that the horses were destroying rare native grasses and plants.

Aidid son ready to unleash teenage warriors in battle for Somalia

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

HUSSEIN AIDID, the former US Marine who took on his dead father's mantle as Somalia's dominant warlord at the weekend, looked ready yesterday to splinter his alliance by unleashing the country's hot-headed youth.

General Mohamed Farrah Aidid's son, who spent 16 years from the age of 14 in Los Angeles, was accused yesterday by senior members of the Somali National Alliance of having staged a "coup" against older members of his clan and their allies.

Mohamed Karyare Afrah, the "interior minister" in General Aidid's Government, contacted diplomats in Nairobi yesterday to say that Hussein Aidid's election was a "scam" and would be opposed by other members of the alliance.

His opponents put their forces on alert. In north Mogadishu, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who is leader of a clan militia alliance, said: "Hussein will bear the consequences of his actions."

The threat introduces a new element into the already confused and violent relations between Somalis. Most of the infighting has been based on battles between clans and sub-



A demonstrator rips an American flag apart with his teeth during the failed US intervention in Somalia

clans. But the younger Aidid's "appointment" as "interior President" of Somalia signals the overturn of traditional leadership by clan elders and the ascent to power of Somalia's lost generation of teenage warriors. At 31, the new warlord is far too young to be considered a leader by older Somalis. But the warlords' militias are made up of wild bush fighters known as *mogadishu* ("bandits"), recruited in their teens, who are largely a law unto themselves. They back the younger leader.

General Aidid forced American and United Nations troops into a humiliating withdrawal from Somalia in 1993 after a battle with US commandos left 300 Somalis and 18 Americans dead.

Hussein Aidid took part, as an artillery corporal in the Marine reserve, in the international intervention force that landed on Mogadishu's beaches in 1992. He was sent back to Los Angeles when America issued a warrant for his father's arrest. He returned home last year to get married. He is over 6ft tall and looks like an American sprint champion. Shunning the traditional garb of skirts and

turban, he prefers to turn out in American combat gear with a pistol at his side.

Appointed head of security in the inland town of Baidoa, he swiftly won the respect of young militia fighters for his bravery in battle and his belligerence towards other clans. Having secured Baidoa for his father, despite the opposition of the Rahanweini clan, he was anxious to push on to try to take the southern port city of Kismayu.

Wiser counsels prevailed. But with the support of Somalia's young hotheads, hopes of peace in the wake of his father's death evaporated.

The *morehan*, swept into General Aidid's army as he recruited bush fighters while he was driving Siad Barre from Mogadishu in 1991, have been the main cause of chaos in Somalia ever since. Like child soldiers throughout Africa, they entered combat before becoming "ethical beings".

Now beyond traditional control, they fight for loot and the sheer fun of battle.

On Sunday, Hussein Aidid told his supporters that he would eliminate his enemies at home and abroad. Rejecting the offer of a ceasefire and negotiations from clan rivals, he opted to continue with the "pacification" of Somalia.

Rediscovered film shows horror of Hiroshima bomb

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

AS HIROSHIMA marks the fifty-first anniversary of the first atomic bomb attack, visitors to the city's Peace Museum can gain a horrific sense of what happened from a film available for the first time.

The longest film footage is filled with grim scenes — a baby, its body a mass of burns, writhes in agony, a man with melted ears stands in stunned shock, and there are powerful images of the damage at different distances from the epicentre.

The two-hour black and white film was shot by an Education Ministry team in September and October 1945, to record the suffering and destruction caused by the bomb released by the US bomber *Enola Gay* on August 6 that year.

According to the city government, the bomb killed about 140,000 people by the end of 1945. The blast killed 10,000 people instantly. A second bomb, dropped three days later on Nagasaki, killed about 70,000.

During the US occupation, films and photographs of the destroyed city were confiscated, out of fear they would

stoke anger among the general public. The Education Ministry film was among the material banned, but a Japanese camera crew member secretly copied part of the footage before turning it over. It lay forgotten in a film archive until it was discovered three years ago. This summer it was moved to the Hiroshima Peace Museum, where it can be seen on request.

Although the museum's exhibits, including a shadow on a stone wall of a victim who simply evaporated in the blast, cannot fail to move the visitor, the emphasis is on portraying Japan as an innocent victim of a cruel fate. That the bombing was the culmination of a war of aggression unleashed by Japan in the 1930s is not adequately explained.

Nor has anyone in the city come up with a convincing explanation of why the monument to an estimated 20,000 Korean forced labourers or soldiers who died in the bombing is excluded from the sacred ground of the Peace Memorial Park, reserved for a cenotaph to the Japanese victims.

Germans seeking second SS man

Rome: German judicial authorities confirmed yesterday that they are seeking the extradition of Karl Hass, a former SS Major, as well as that of former SS Captain Erich Priebke, for their part in the 1944 Ardeatine Caves massacre (Philip Willan writes).

Hass, 84, admitted to taking part in the massacre when he gave evidence for the prosecution at Priebke's trial. He is under guard in a hospital after breaking his hip while trying to climb out of a hotel bedroom on the night before he was due to testify. His extradition is complicated by the fact that he was granted immunity, if he agreed to testify.

Sri Lanka death toll disputed

Colombo: Sri Lankan troops killed at least 203 Tamil Tiger guerrillas as they advanced on the northern rebel-held town of Kilinochchi over the weekend, the Defence Ministry said. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, however, said its forces had killed at least 100 troops and destroyed five army tanks in the battle for the stronghold. (Reuters)

Court tries to wreck marriage

Cairo: An Egyptian court upheld a ruling that Nasr Abu Zaid, a happily-married university professor, must divorce his wife because he was found to have renounced Islam. The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said it feared for his life and urged President Mubarak to intervene. The couple have moved to The Netherlands. (Reuters)

Burundi boycott

Bejumbura: Tanzania, in a bid to overthrow Burundi's military Government, has prevented oil tankers from crossing into the country. Kenya has suspended rail, air and road links. (Reuters)

Death demand

Seoul: The prosecution demanded that Chun Doo Hwan, above, the former South Korean military leader, should be sentenced to death for seizing power in a coup 17 years ago. (AP)

Fatal delay

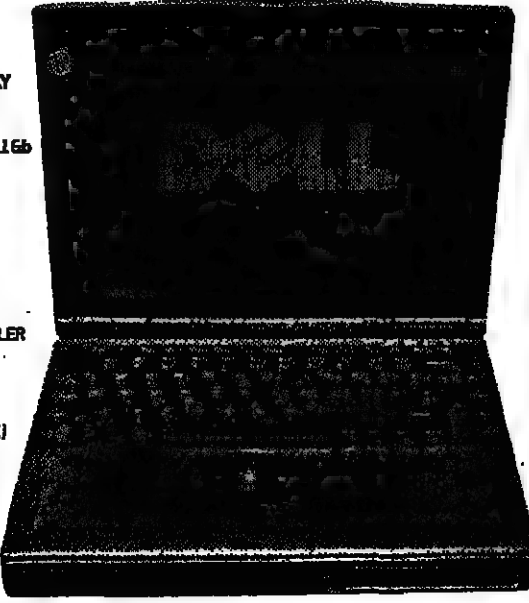
Canberra: Max Bell, who had cancer and wanted to use a new euthanasia law, has died in New South Wales because he was unable to obtain the signatures necessary under the legislation. (Reuters)

Child star quits

New York: Macaulay Culkin, the child star of *Home Alone*, has given up acting until his estranged parents resolve their custody battle over him and five of his siblings. (Reuters)

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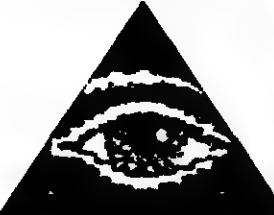
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The mystery of our dreams

MIND WATCHING



Day Two of our series reports on dreams, meditation, and computers as reasonable beings

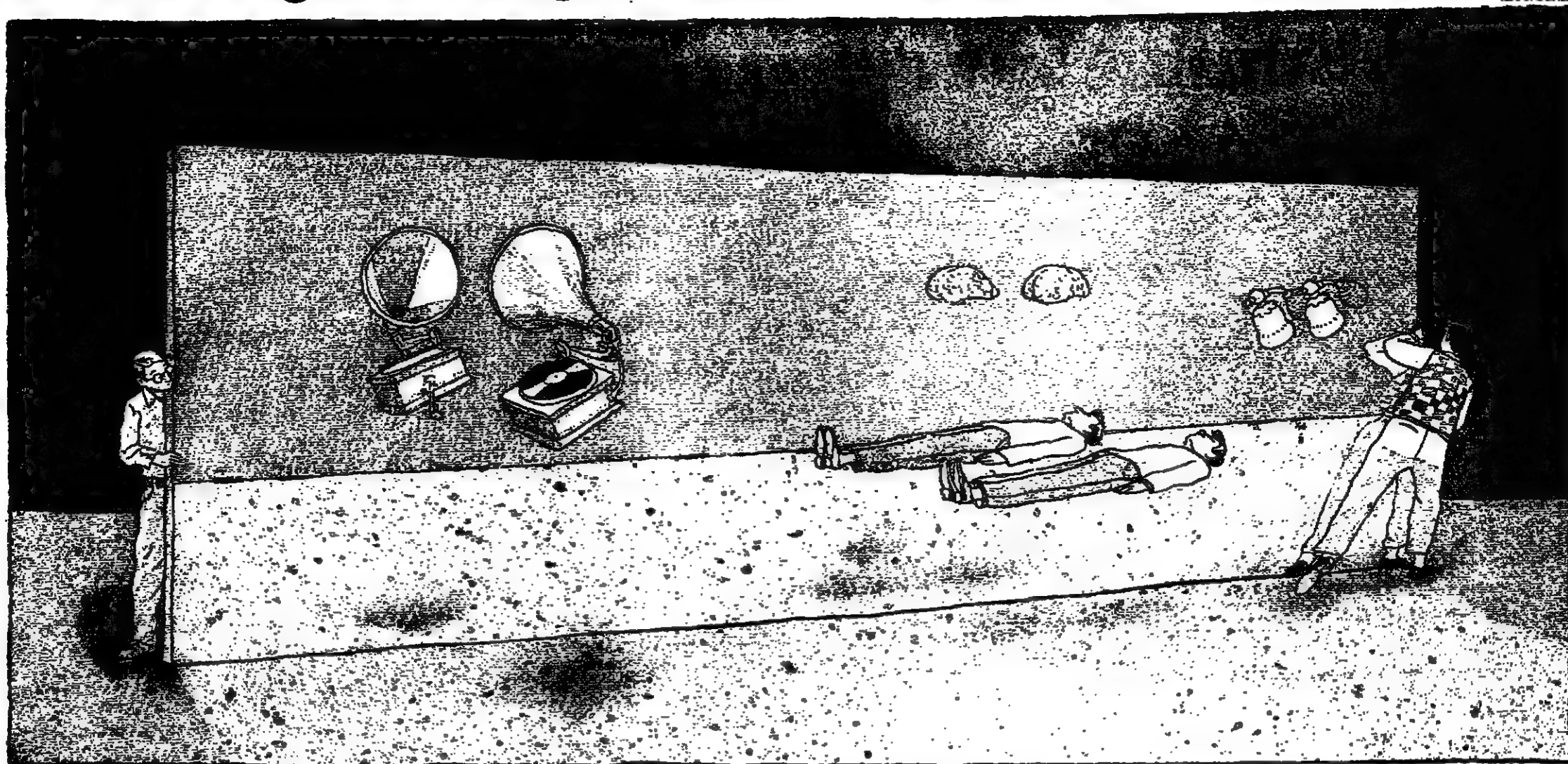
Dreaming is one of the fundamental mysteries of consciousness. Although we spend one third of our lives asleep and at least a quarter of each night in a state of dreaming, relatively little is known about the origins and purpose of our dreams.

For Professor David Fontana, author of *The Secret Power of Dreams* (Element), dreams dissolve the boundaries of normality, challenge the way we view the world and show us that life may not be what we think it is. "In dreams we enter the world of the imagination, an altered state of awareness in which we trade reality for a territory full of possibilities, a world in which past, future and present lose their boundaries."

Contemporary philosophers and neuroscientists are divided. Some consign dreams to the realm of mysticism and consider them unworthy of academic study; others consider dreams to be the last psychological frontier. For them an understanding of dreaming is fundamental to any understanding of consciousness.

Professor Jim Horne, director of the sleep laboratory at Loughborough University, says we dream to entertain ourselves. "A dream is an intensely visual phenomenon, rather like a cinema of the mind. One of the functions of dreaming is to keep the mind occupied and tuned up during sleep. For much of our evolution we had no candles or electric lighting and so there was nothing for us to do when it was dark. As a result, one of the evolutionary functions of sleep was to kill unproductive hours. The trouble is that the brain doesn't like being inactive for long periods and needs to have its circuits tested and worked on. Dreaming provides that function."

Professor Horne believes



DREAMING

that the importance of dreams is overvalued. "Dreaming is associated with what we call rapid-eye-movement sleep. You can deprive people of dreaming sleep without any adverse effects. Sleep matters, not dreaming."

Young children and foetuses spend more time in states of dreaming than adults. "The time of life when rapid-eye-movement sleep is most prolific is at about six months to gestation. But it is unlikely that a six-month-old foetus would be dreaming in the way that we know it."

In *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Freud writes: "The greater part of our life is unknown to us, and that much of our action is unconsciously motivated. He suggests that the most enjoyable access to the unconscious is through dreams where the 'symbolic but watchful ego is still present'. According to Freud, dreaming has a meaning. It has its own motives, narratives and trains of antecedent associations."

To Freud's most eminent collaborator, Carl Jung, dreams have a psychic struc-

ture that is quite unlike that of other contents of consciousness. "They do not arise like other conscious contents, from any clearly discernible, logical and emotional continuity of experience, but are remnants of a peculiar psychic activity taking place during sleep."

But Professor Horne says there is nothing intrinsically remarkable in dreams. "You dream as you think. A dream is a reflection of what has been on your mind, what you have seen the previous day. I find it hard to believe that someone who is sad or depressed could conjure up happy thoughts at night that they had not had during the day. The notion that dreams give access to the innermost depths of the mind is nonsense. You can find out about people's minds by talking to them, not by analysing their dreams. The notion of a universal dream dictionary is junk."

Attempts have been made by scientists to control their dreams. Dr Keith Hearne, who has a doctorate in dream research from Liverpool University, has patented the

Hearne Dream Machine. The machine purports to make the sleeper aware that he is dreaming without waking him up. The phenomenon is called lucid dreaming.

Professor Susan Greenfield, Fellow and Tutor in Medicine at Lincoln College, Oxford, and author of *Journey to the Centres of the Mind* (W. H. Freeman), is sceptical. "Lucid dreaming is not normal dreaming at all. I would say the lucid dreamer is in a state of consciousness. It's a bit like when you wake up from a nightmare and know that you are awake, even though you don't quite have control over your state of mind."

Contrary to Freud, Professor Greenfield says that the most basic riddle of dreams is what they actually are. "To me dreams are the smallest modicum of consciousness that we are able to have. I see consciousness as arising, from one moment to the next, as a result of brain cells rapidly banding and disbanding — a bit like blobs of mercury."

Professor Greenfield says that some characteristics of schizophrenics are similar to those of the dreamer: "Mental status examination on schizophrenics can give a result indistinguishable from the mental states of dreamers. When we dream we are all schizophrenics."

JASON COWLEY

Moving to a higher plane

What happens to consciousness when we meditate? Is transcendental meditation little more than an elaborate synonym for taking a nap. Jason Cowley writes, or does it, as its followers claim, transport the meditator into a new realm of consciousness?

Despite being tainted by its early association with hippiedom and the counterculture revolution of the 1960s, TM is now practised by 160,000 people in Britain: the worldwide figure is close to four million. Introduced into this country by the followers of Maharishi Mahesh

MEDITATION

Yogi, among whom were the Beatles, it involves sitting comfortably for 20 minutes twice daily, during which the mind relaxes into a state of "restful alertness", slowing down physiological functions such as heart and respiratory rate.

Jonathan Leslie, co-chairman of the Central London Centre for Transcendental Meditation, says: "When Maharishi first started to teach meditation the people who came to learn were the

mystical types. It wasn't until the early 1970s that scientists, some of whom meditated themselves, began to do research into what actually happens during meditative states of consciousness. Since then interest has grown exponentially."

TM is gaining credibility among the scientific and medical communities. In April 1993, for instance, a group of about 700 doctors campaigned for its wider availability on the NHS. Research has shown that TM gives rise to a state of deep rest characterised by a marked reduction in metabolic activity, increased cerebral blood flow and features directly opposite to the physiological and biochemical effects of stress.

But how does this state of deep rest differ from sleep? "Subjectively, when I meditate I know I'm not sleeping," Mr Leslie says. "In any event, research has revealed that the brain-wave patterns of a person in transcendence are completely different from those of a sleeping person. What happens, physiologically, is that respiratory and heart rates slow down; the body gains twice as much rest as it would do during sleep. But, at the same time, the person feels completely alert and awake. The brain-wave patterns indicate a greater amount of creativity and alertness: they do not indicate a state of sleep. The person experiences a unique state of restful alertness."

He continues: "In normal circumstances, we experience three states of consciousness: waking, dreaming and sleeping. Each state of consciousness has its own state of physiology. Research shows that when a person is meditating he or she enters a different state of consciousness from the three established states, and this is called transcendental consciousness."

"When a person enters that new level of consciousness it has a dramatic effect on the physiology. As a result, the person gains more energy, greater creativity and an improved sense of self."

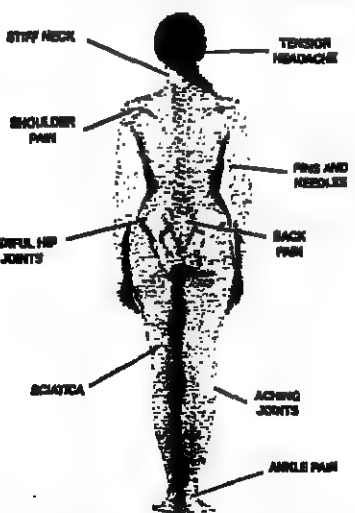
Mr Leslie says that TM differs from conventional meditation and yoga through its effortless nature. "Most techniques involve some act of concerted concentration or mind control. It may take the form of prayer or of some other act of contemplation. But TM doesn't involve any effort or control. It allows mental activity to settle down in a natural way while alertness is maintained."



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THE idea that dreams may contain hidden messages is continually fascinating — particularly since so many of them are commonly experienced and frequently recur. Dr Petruska Clarkson, a clinical psychologist, believes that popular interpretations are inadequate because they cannot take into account the complexity of a subject's circumstances and personality — but she suggests it is still possible to identify the psychological origins of many common dreams.

● Falling dreams: these are equated to sexual temptation, sexual inadequacy, shame, or loss of a job. Dr Clarkson says that fear of falling is one of our deepest anxieties, because as babies we fear being dropped. This fear is rekindled when life events are linked to a loss of status, or "falling down" — for example, poor sexual performance, forbidden sexual relations or becoming unemployed.

● Being naked in public: associated with discovering a deception, or with unexpected

luck. Nakedness is traditionally equated with being humiliated, exposed or seen through. Again, it represents a fear commonly experienced when we are young — of not fitting in a group, or being considered a fraud.

The opposite interpretation — that nakedness could represent sudden good luck — may reflect the belief that being naked in public could be unexpectedly exciting.

● Teeth falling out: means having untrustworthy friends or a downturn of financial fortune. Dr Clarkson suggests that teeth represent a means of survival. We depend on them and hope they will not let us down. Fear of losing them reflects insecurity.

● Flying: this represents ambition. If you fly on a steady path, you will achieve your goals. If you have difficulties or crash, you are grasping for more than you can reach. The experience of soaring is equated with aspiration and the desire to be upwardly mobile.

BRIDGET HARRISON

INTERPRETING DREAMS

Can machines ever think like humans?

FINAL CHALLENGE

EARLIER this year, a computer program called Deep Blue won a game of chess against Gary Kasparov. While the world champion rallied to win the match, Deep Blue's performance showed that another bastion of human intelligence was on the verge of crumbling to a machine.

Computers have come a long way since the British mathematician Alan Turing raised the question of machine intelligence in 1950. But could they become indistinguishable from human beings in their perception of the world and in self-awareness?

In Austin, Texas, a team led by Dr Douglas Lenat is trying to create a machine that reasons like a human being. Dr Lenat's program, CYC — as in encyclopaedic — is already vast, with more than 200 million bytes of source code, equivalent to 500 novels. For ten years, his team has

been feeding CYC with commonsense rules, such as "bread is a food" or "you're wet when you sweat". The program now contains nearly a million rules, and given another million, Dr Lenat asserts, it will be bright enough to ask its own questions.

To others in artificial intelligence, "top-down" approaches such as CYC, which express

the world as a series of logical propositions, will never work.

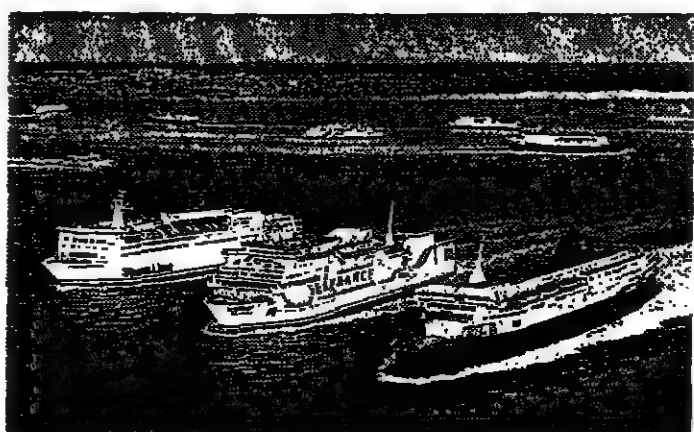
Foremost among these critics is Dr Rodney Brooks of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who designs machines to learn for themselves. The latest is Cog, which has a mere eight microprocessors for its brain. Cog is able to move about and collide with things, learning as it does so. Only by retracing the course of evolution, Dr Brooks implies, can machines acquire the intelligence human beings take for granted.

NIGEL HAWKES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY AUGUST 6 1996

Manufacturing weakness raises hopes of rate cut

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

INDUSTRIAL output fell unexpectedly in June, as the manufacturing sector continued to struggle, resurrecting hopes of a rate cut in the autumn.

Total production fell 1.1 per cent in June compared with a rise of 0.8 per cent in May, while the monthly measure of manufacturing output fell 0.3 per cent, and 0.5 per cent year-on-year, its lowest level since June 1993. The decline went against both City expectations of a small rise in output and more optimistic evidence from recent industrial trends surveys.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, cited chronic weakness in manufacturing as a major reason for

cutting rates by a quarter point to 5.75 per cent in June. Economists believe that with political pressures weighing heavily on Mr Clarke's mind, the latest figures may offer the Chancellor a window to cut rates in the autumn.

Keith Davies, UK economist at 4Cast UK Data Analysis, said: "The indication that the real economy remains extremely weak may provide the Chancellor with the justification he needs for one further rate cut in the autumn — especially as the inflationary outlook continues to look benign."

Mr Clarke is likely to face continued opposition, however, from the Bank of England, which remains more hawkish on inflation, and will signal its views on the

state of the economy when it releases its quarterly inflation bulletin tomorrow.

There is also increasing scepticism in the City about the wisdom of further rate cuts, with economists saying that growing consumer demand, reflected in accelerating retail sales and money supply figures, could re-ignite inflation towards the end of the year.

A 5.6 per cent drop in demand for utility supplies, which includes gas and electricity, because of the warm weather in June, was the largest single cause of the decline in total industrial output, according to the Office for National Statistics. Oil and gas production also fell 2.3 per cent.

But the fall in manufacturing was spread across most sectors, with the biggest decline

in the nuclear fuels and metal product sectors. Only the food, drink and tobacco and the other manufacturing sectors showed small rises in output in June.

Recent data from the Purchasing Managers' Index and CBI has hinted at an upturn in the manufacturing sector. But much of the improvement has been derived from measures of confidence, while stocks and orders remain weak. The stock overhang, in particular, looks likely to continue to hold back output in the near future even with a recovery in demand.

Meanwhile, further evidence of the continuing strength of the consumer sector was provided by the July figures for M0, the measure of narrow money supply, also published yesterday. M0 showed an annual

rise of 7.1 per cent in July, representing a slight fall from 7.3 per cent in June, but marginally ahead of expectations.

The narrower notes and coins measure rose 0.6 per cent month on month. Analysts said the figures were a tentative sign that the trend in high street spending remains upwards, although most forecast that the retail sales figures for July would slow slightly after June's strong showing.

UK housing starts fell 2 per cent in June from the previous three months, according to figures from the Department of the Environment. In the second quarter, new starts totalled 43,200, a fall of 12 per cent on the same three months last year.

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Pearson sells WP for £305m

By ERIC REGULY

PEARSON, the media and entertainment group, unveiled better than expected earnings yesterday and announced that it had struck a deal to sell Westminster Press for £305 million. The company also appointed a new chief executive at Penguin Books and outlined plans to use Recoletos, its Spanish investment, to attack the vast Latin American market.

The shares, which have been on the wane in recent months because of severe losses at Minscape, its computer games company, and concerns about its possible lack of strategic direction, gained 19p to 630p.

Pearson's agreement to sell Westminster Press, its regional newspaper business, came just hours before the group reported a 40 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, to £30.2 million, in the half year to June 30. The biggest factor in the decline was Minscape's £38.8 million loss, comprised of trading losses, write-offs and restructuring costs. Pearson said that Minscape's worst days were behind it.

Operating profits fell 31 per cent to £49.1 million on sales of £939.6 million, up 20 per cent. Excluding Minscape, they rose 23 per cent to £87.9 million. Pearson has sold Westminster Press to Newsquest Media, a British company backed by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, America's leading leveraged buyout firm. Newsquest was formed by the management team that bought Reed Regional Newspapers last year. Pearson expects to receive £15 million in trading profits from WP, raising the sale's total contribution to £320 million, before the deal closes late this year. The disposal, Pearson said, was consistent with its strategy of selling local businesses with limited growth potential to concentrate on international expansion. Frank Barlow, managing director, called WP "a domestic business in long-term decline."

The international expansion strategy will see Pearson pay

£86.8 million in cash and shares for a further 30 per cent of Recoletos, the Spanish newspaper and magazine publisher, taking its holding to 95 per cent. The management of Recoletos, whose titles include *Expansion*, the financial daily, and *Marcos*, the sports newspaper, will retain the other 5 per cent.

David Bell, the Pearson director responsible for the group's information businesses, said: "Outside Spain we plan to use Recoletos to build a significant platform in Spanish. We are currently exploring a number of other possible investments in South America."

He would not give details, but noted that Recoletos acquired a stake in the Chilean newspaper *El Diario* this year.

In a surprise announcement, Pearson estimated the total cost of returning video recorders in Britain in preparation for the launch of Channel 5 at £100 million. The original business plan of Channel 5, in which Pearson has a 24 per cent stake, included £55 million in returning costs. Greg Dyke, head of Pearson's TV division, called the £100 million figure "a very provisional estimate" that would have little impact on the channel's profitability. Pearson still expects the service to break even in 1999.

Penguin, which reported a near seven-fold increase in operating profits, to £10.1 million, is to take on Michael Lynton as chairman and chief executive at the end of the year. He replaces Peter Mayer, who is leaving to run his family's publishing business. Mr Lynton, 36, started Disney Publishing and is currently president of Hollywood Pictures, one of Disney's three film production studios.

Pearson is also looking for a replacement for Mr Barlow, who is to retire next year.

The company said that it is increasing the interim dividend by 9 per cent, to 6.9p, to reflect the underlying performance of the group.

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Jim Brown, chief executive of Newsquest, the British company backed by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts that is buying Westminster Press

Cordiant to move Saatchi US chief from his post

By JASON NISSE

JOHN FITZGERALD, the man hired by Cordiant at the beginning of this year to take over the US side of its Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency, is to be moved from his post and may leave the company.

Cordiant is understood to be "re-evaluating" his position in the light of a series of battles involving Mr Fitzgerald and some of the group's most senior staff.

Mr Fitzgerald, 48, was hired from McCann Erickson, a rival agency, in January and given the title of president and chief operating officer of Saatchi & Saatchi US. Bob Selet, Cordiant's chairman, had felt it was known that Mr Fitzgerald was expected to take over from Ed Wax as chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi US when Mr Wax retires next year.

Mr Wax stepped into the role when Bill Muirhead abruptly quit to join Cordiant's founders, Maurice and Charles Saatchi, in their

new agency, M&C Saatchi. Internally, Cordiant staff have been told that Mr Fitzgerald will not now succeed Mr Wax and a new role is being found for him. Should he leave, this could prove expensive for the group as he is believed to be on a basic salary exceeding \$200,000 a year and has a 12-month rolling contract.

Cordiant refused to discuss Mr Fitzgerald's position directly. "Everyone at Cordiant is being re-evaluated at the time. Mr Fitzgerald was brought in as a catalyst. If in that process he has touched a few feathers then so be it."

In New York yesterday, Mr Fitzgerald appeared unaware of his re-evaluation. "There must be an absolute misunderstanding," he said. "I was with Charlie Scott [executive chairman] for a successful meeting only a week ago."

Today Cordiant is expected to reveal a return to profits with strong half-year figures.

New Hays offer for Salvesen

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE BOARD of Christian Salvesen, the storage, distribution and specialist hire group, is expected to meet today to consider an improved bid from Hays, the business services group led by Ronnie Frost.

The new offer, made in a letter sent by Hays to Salvesen, is believed to be around 390p a share, an improvement of 20p on the initial offer, which was rejected last week.

At Salvesen, which is based in Edinburgh, officials would not confirm when the board is meeting or the contents of the letter. When it met last Wednesday it described Hays's first offer as inadequate, but it left the door open for a higher bid.

Mr Frost has stressed that he will not pay over the odds for Salvesen. But there is speculation that the target company may hold out for at least 400p and at that level Hays would risk diluting its own earnings per share.

HSBC leaps after better than hoped half-way profit

By ROBERT MILLER

SHARES in Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), owner of Midland Bank, jumped 48p to 1164p yesterday after the international investment banking group unveiled higher than forecast half-year results.

HSBC, which announced that pre-tax profits rose 34 per cent to £2.32 billion in the six months to June 30, also announced that final dividends would be paid to nearly 180,000 shareholders a month earlier than has been the custom.

Sir William Purves, group chairman of HSBC, who declared a first interim payout of 15p to be paid on October 11 compared with 9.25p, said that in future a second interim would be announced with the year-end results in March and paid in early May.

Midland Bank chipped in with a 35 per cent increase in attributable profits to £439 million while its cost to income ratio fell to 62.8 per cent

(68 per cent). First Direct, the pioneering telephone banking operation, signed up 88,000 new accounts in the first six months of the year, and is now a profitable concern, Sir William said. Midland's operating expenses were £11 million lower at £1.1 billion and staff numbers have fallen 1,269, or 3 per cent since June last year.

Contributions to group profits from HSBC's international businesses included Hongkong Bank's £818 million, up 25 per cent from last year; HSBC America's £115 million (£85 million last time) and the British Bank of the Middle East's £32 million, compared with £31 million previously.

HSBC's assets rose by 5 per cent to £237 billion, while earnings per share were up 30 per cent to 60p.

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Drive to sell off housing loans

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Government yesterday started the sell-off of £1.1 billion of public sector housing association loans in a move that will place the whole of the sector's £10 billion loan portfolio in private hands for the first time.

NM Rothschild, which is advising the Department of the Environment on the sale, is targeting 150 potentially interested financial institutions including banks, building societies and investment banks. It has sent out a preliminary information memorandum to get feedback from the private sector on the possible value and structure of the sale of the portfolios.

The loans are currently held by the Housing Corporation, Scottish Homes and Housing for Wales and were funded by the National Loan Fund before the late 1980s. Since then, the Government has insisted that such loans should be funded by the private sector.

Charles Keay, executive director of Rothschild, believes there will be a significant amount of interest from banks, building societies and other institutions in the housing sector.

He added: "If the sale goes ahead, it will be by far the largest event financial institutions have seen in the sector. Purchasers would at a stroke gain up to 10 per cent of the market and relationships with anything up to 1,200 associations."

The sale is scheduled for later in the year and ministers will make a final decision in October.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3788.3	(+17.7)
FT-SE 100 ex div	4.55%	
FT-SE All share	1872.28	(+8.72)
Nikkei	21077.47	(+137.08)
Dow Jones	5887.23	(+7.40)
S&P Composite	882.47	(+0.02)
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75)
Long Bond	80.75%	(80.75)
Yield	6.75%	(6.75)
£/¥	164.53	(164.53)
£/DM	1.8447	(1.8447)
£/S	1.8438	(1.8438)
DM	2.2783	(2.2783)
FF	7.778	(7.778)
SF	1.8557	(1.8557)
Yen	164.53	(164.53)
S Index	84.5	(84.5)
Tokyo close Yen	108.88	
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.20	(\$19.20)
London close	\$338.75	(\$338.45)

* denotes midday trading price

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John Constable.
Painter of *The Haywain*, 1821.

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JOHN CHARCOL

France tops European investment league

By GEORGE SIVELL

FRANCE has emerged as the leading European country in attracting investment from abroad, according to Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

The figures are the first ever published for European Union inward investment but cover 1994, just before a wave of foreign investment in Britain was announced.

During 1994 France attracted 9.3 billion Ecu (\$7.6 billion), ahead of Spain with 8.2 billion Ecu and Belgium-Luxembourg with 7 billion Ecu. These figures cover both investment from fellow European states and from countries

outside the European Union. France also topped the table for investment by fellow European countries alone with a total investment of 6.8 billion Ecu during 1994. If investment from other countries in Europe is stripped out, Belgium-Luxembourg is top with 2.8 billion Ecu. Britain manages second in this table with 2.6 billion Ecu of direct investment from outside Europe in 1994.

When the huge LG development in Wales was announced last month, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, reckoned that Britain had achieved £100 billion of inward investment in the past decade.

LG, one of the giant South Korean chaebol,

or conglomerates, is to spend £1.7 billion in creating 6,000 consumer electrical jobs at Newport over the next few years.

Such job creation in Britain, however, has created controversy because of the amount of Government aid offered to create each job. Estimates of the aid to the Newport project ranged up to £30,000 for each job created.

Yesterday's Eurostat figures reveal, however, that a high proportion of direct cross-border investment in Europe comes from other European countries. European nations invest 80 per cent more in other European states than do countries outside Europe.

Many of Britain's successful investments

have been attracted from countries seeking to establish a stable base in the European Union, the largest world market outside North America. Germany and the Netherlands are the biggest European investors abroad, spending 8.3 billion Ecu each in 1994. Britain was next with 3.8 billion Ecu.

Eurostat, the Luxembourg-based EU statistical arm, makes the point that the various components of foreign direct investment can fluctuate considerably from year to year and are subject to an array of accounting differences between member states. For Britain, however, 1995 was a record year for direct investment from overseas.

SFA fines go over £1m in year for first time

By ROBERT MILLER

THE frontline watchdog responsible for policing City brokers and futures traders yesterday said it was prepared to reduce the burden of complying with the rules provided that firms demonstrate that they have tough internal controls already in place.

Richard Farrant, chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), whose annual report yesterday showed that fines levied on members in the year to March 31 breached the £1 million level for the first time, also said that consultation papers on proposed rule changes regarding the responsibilities of senior ex-

ecutive officers (SEOs) would be sent out this month.

The SFA, stung by criticism of its perceived laxity in disciplining the most senior executives in charge of Barings at the time of the £830 million crash, has already promised it would make its disciplinary process and thinking more transparent. Mr Farrant yesterday added that in future cases of severe financial or reputational damage, or very serious conduct of business rule breaches, "we will be shifting the burden of proof". He added: "SEOs will have to prove that they did not break the rules, rather than the SFA having to prove that they did."

Mr Farrant said that the new rules on the responsibilities of CEOs would be sent out more clearly "to avoid any confusion in the future about the standards we expect from senior management".

The SFA, which reported increased administrative expenses — to £22.8 million from £17.5 million previously — will allow firms with a good disciplinary record to free up capital to reinvest in their businesses. Those who fail to satisfy the watchdog, however, will be required to post additional funding.

The plan is similar to a pilot project unveiled in April by Imro (the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation), the regulator for fund managers, for a two-tier level of supervision.

The SFA's increased expenditure was largely because of a huge investment in new technology to provide a transaction monitoring system. According to its annual report, the watchdog spent £3.4 million on systems, compared with £418,000 the previous year. Offsetting the additional technology expenditure was an increase in the amount of costs recovered from "enforcement actions", from £160,000 to £714,000.

The number of visits to SFA members' firms rose to 1,824 from 1,731 previously, with the proportion of non-routine inspections up from 55 per cent to 72 per cent. During the last year, the watchdog prosecuted 53 firms and individuals, compared with 36 in 1994.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, said: "The present arrangements would enable English generators to neutralise competition through the interconnector."

National Power and PowerGen may now move to increase their physical presence in Scotland. As they are forced to buy electricity from Scottish companies to trade in Scotland, their margins on the business are slight.

PowerGen is currently encountering local opposition on its plans to site a power station in Lanarkshire. A spokesman for the generator said: "We are disappointed by the ruling from Offer but we remain committed to competition in Scotland."



July traffic on Le Shuttle doubled in a year, taking 44 per cent of the car market and 45 per cent for trucks

New highs for Eurotunnel traffic

EUROTUNNEL sent its banks a timely reminder of its improving commercial prospects yesterday with record traffic figures (Jonathan Prynn writes).

These showed that its trains have carried more than 100,000 passengers over a weekend for the first time.

During the three days from last Friday to Sunday Le Shuttle trains carried more than 31,000 cars, coaches, motorcycles and cycles, through the Channel Tunnel, the equivalent to about 100,000 passengers.

It was the first time passenger traffic has breached the

100,000 mark over a three-day period. Traffic in July also smashed all previous records, with 254,393 cars, motorcycles and cycles and 5,736 coaches crossing the Channel on Le Shuttle, about double the figures for the same period last year.

Eurotunnel also claimed an

increased cross-Channel market share for July, with its services taking 44 per cent of the car market and 45 per cent of the truck market.

The Eurostar high-speed passenger train service broke the 500,000 mark in July, a 72 per cent increase on last year.

Banks' losses point to end of free accounts

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE demise of free banking could be close, as banks struggle to recoup the £2.2 billion a year cost of providing money transmission services, such as debit cards, cheque books and hole-in-the-wall cash machines to personal customers.

This prediction, made in a report, *UK Money Transmission Mechanisms*, published by Datamonitor, the market research group, follows the launch earlier this year of the Barclays Addition account which offers extra benefits in return for a monthly fee.

Datamonitor calculates

that, in 1995, the banks recovered £1.5 billion of money spent on transmission costs by charging £670 million in merchant interchange fees to shops and other outlets which take credit and debit cards. The banks also turned to their business customers who paid £835 million in money transmission fees in 1995. This is £335 million more than the £500 million cost to the banks of providing these services, which means that businesses are forced to cross subsidise individual customers. However, this still leaves the banks

with a shortfall of £1.2 billion. In the past, says Datamonitor, the banks have sought to plug the gap by heavy charges on personal customers with overdrafts, never a popular move. But the numbers of accounts in the red are decreasing, as customers use their credit cards.

Datamonitor says that imposing mandatory charges on customers in credit will prove extremely difficult. If banks choose to introduce accounts with benefits such as insurance, customers will question the value of these extras.

The next round of competition in domestic gas may have to be slowed to combat problems so far encountered in the trial in the South West of England, according to the Gas Consumers Council. The council has issued a call for more stages to the scheme, which will expand from the South West next year, as new figures show that only 53,000 customers have switched supplier from British Gas.

The figure is lower than had been hoped three months into the scheme for 500,000 households in Devon and Cornwall. Only a few hundred customers a week are currently moving from British Gas, although tariffs offered by competitors knock up to 20 per cent from gas bills.

A British Gas spokesman said the company expects to lose more customers when the weather worsens. He said: "At the moment people are not really thinking about their gas bills. They will do so more when it gets colder."

Customers who switched supplier to rivals such as Swebgas and Amerasia Hess at the start of the trial will now be receiving their first bills.

Gas trial problems identified

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Company failures up 45% in July

THE number of company failures rose 45 per cent in July, with the construction and manufacturing sectors bearing the brunt of the increase. The total number of receivership appointments and administration orders rose from 128 in June to 186 in July, according to figures compiled by Deloitte & Touche, the accountants. Construction appointments nearly doubled to 33, with 25 concentrated in the general construction and demolition sector, while manufacturing receiverships rose 38 per cent to 54. Deloitte & Touche said that increases occurred in seven of the ten sectors.

Regionally, Yorkshire and Humberside and the North West suffered the biggest increase in appointments last month. The number of appointments also accelerated in London and the South East. Ralph Preece, partner in charge of corporate recovery, in London and the South East, said that appointments were occurring in all sectors and did not point to any particular problems for any individual industry. The only regions to escape a rise in receiverships were East Anglia and Scotland.

Fewer in negative equity

THE number of households in negative equity fell by close to a third in the second quarter of 1996, decreasing from 1,099,000 to 758,000, in the largest decline for three years. Rob Thomas, housing analyst at UBS, the Swiss-owned securities house, notes that this is the first time that the number of households affected by negative equity has fallen below one million since 1991. The UBS survey follows similarly up-beat sets of statistics on the housing market from two building societies, the Halifax and the Nationwide.

Bank resignation

THE Bank of Scotland yesterday announced that Scott Bell, group managing director of Standard Life, Europe's largest mutual insurer, has resigned from the bank's board of directors. The resignation follows the completion of the sale last month of Standard Life's stake of nearly 33 per cent stake in Bank of Scotland through a secondary offering. Norman Lessels, non-executive chairman of Standard Life, who was re-elected to the bank's board in June, has agreed to continue as a director of Bank of Scotland, but in a personal capacity.

US growth still strong

US LEADING indicators rose 0.5 per cent in June, ahead of Wall Street expectations of a 0.3 per cent rise, suggesting that American economic growth remains strong. It was the fifth consecutive rise in the figures, which are compiled from a series of sector indicators, and the largest rise since February. Coincident indicators also rose 0.5 per cent, although lagging indicators fell 0.1 per cent. US housing completions, meanwhile, rose 0.4 per cent in June, representing an 11.3 per cent increase year on year. The June level was the highest since January.

Water prices criticised

CONSUMERS are extremely critical of water prices, according to the National Consumer Council. A survey of 2,000 people shows that 40 per cent of consumers find water company charges unreasonable. This level of criticism is equal to the combined disapproval rating for gas and electricity companies. The survey, published today, says: "Regional electricity companies can boast an overall 81 per cent satisfaction rate — a figure which may have been influenced by the £50 rebate many customers would have received."

Manders in £4.7m deal

MANDERS, the coatings and printing inks specialist, has bought the US printing ink business of Croda Inks, part of Croda International, for £4.7 million with effect from August 1. Manders is acquiring manufacturing locations in Atlanta, Milwaukee and Chicago as well as the right to carry on supplying existing Croda Inks customers. The majority of employees at Croda Inks, which had a 1995 turnover of £17 million, will be re-employed by Manders. Manders said the acquisition was aimed at giving the company a strong US presence.

Abbey National debut

NATIONAL & Provincial's 1.3 million members officially became part of the Abbey National yesterday. Over the next few months passbooks and other documents will be reissued with the Abbey National logo. Abbey paid £1.35 billion, creating an enlarged Abbey National with 12.5 million customers and £120 billion of assets. Bonuses to be paid to N&P members are being calculated and will be credited between August 27 and September 2. Members stand to get up to £4,750 in cash or Abbey National shares.

Ultra lands £6.1m MSI

ULTRA ELECTRONICS, the defence contractor that announced plans to float at the weekend, is paying £6.1 million to buy Measurement Systems Incorporated, based in Connecticut. MSI designs and makes controls such as joysticks and trackballs. Last year it made operating profits of £700,000 on sales of £5.6 million. MSI will become part of Ultra's electronics division. Ultra, which made operating profits of £10.6 million last year, is expected to be valued at about £120 million when it joins the stock market via a placing in early autumn.

McKay Securities fall

MCKAY SECURITIES, the Reading property company, reported pre-tax profits of £2.8 million for the year to March 31, a £100,000 fall from the previous year. McKay blames the fall on a loss of rental income after the expiry of a lease of a Bicester property. Plans for a 100,000 sq ft office development in central Reading remain on hold while the company awaits an improvement in demand. McKay intends to start work on the residential side of the scheme next year. The final dividend is increased to 3.4p (3.1p), making a total of 5.5p (5.2p) a share.

DTI seeks to close Titan II

TITAN International, a US limited liability company, and Titan International Incorporated, the successors of an international money-circulation scheme, were yesterday described in court as "inherently objectionable" by Roger Kaye, QC, for the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Kaye said the companies were clones of the original Titan Business Club. The DTI has moved to wind up the new "Titan II" scheme, launched after the Titan Business Club was the subject of a series of court orders.

Mr Kaye asked the High Court to issue similar injunctions on Titan II if a provisional liquidator is not appointed. The hearing continues.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.93
Austria Sch	17.00	15.53
Belgium Fr	49.52	45.62
Canada \$	2.22	2.02
Cyprus Cyp	0.742	0.657
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland Mk	7.49	6.84
France Fr	6.14	7.49
Germany Dr	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	379	354
Hong Kong \$	113	93
Iceland Fr	1.01	0.93
Israel She	1.57	1.42
Italy Lira	2450	2250
Japan Yen	173.40	163.40
Malta	0.263	0.238
Netherlands Gld	2.708	2.478
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.39	9.56
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa R	7.51	6.71
Spain Ptas	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	10.82	10.02
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	132770	124770
USA \$	1.645	1.515

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Sea Containers building sold for £102m

By CARL MORTSHED



Sea Containers House in Southwark has been bought Capital and Income Group

SEA Containers House, the Thames-side headquarters in Southwark of the shipping group, has been sold to a private property investment consortium for £102 million.

The deal is the third major transaction in nine months for Capital and Income Group, a collection of property companies controlled by wealthy overseas investors.

John Barrow Brown, chief executive of Capital & Income Group, said that it was keen to buy high-quality landmark buildings. In November last year, it paid £31 million for the Marco Polo building in Battersea and last month acquired Smith Newcourt

House in the City from Ladbroke Group for £67 million.

Mr Brown said that total investment to date was about £280 million. "In the short term, we expect to double that," he said.

Capital and Income Group is buying the 420,000 sq ft Sea Containers House from Allied Domecq Pension Fund on a yield of 8.75 per cent. Mr Brown said the yield would rise to 9 per cent when 16,000 sq ft of vacant space is let.

The original developers of Sea Containers House intended a hotel, but the concrete shell of the building was acquired by the shipping group in the late 1970s and

lavishly fitted out in a manner to suit the owners of the Orient Express.

In 1988, Sea Containers disposed of the freehold in a £110 million sale and leaseback transaction with Rutch Property Group and the property was subsequently sold to the Allied Domecq pension fund.

Yesterday's deal is the second major property London sale in a week. DGI, a German property fund has paid Land Securities £130 million for 33 Grosvenor Place, SW1. The 188,000 sq ft building is occupied by Amerasia Hess, the American oil company.

JP 121.50

□ Pearson's Spanish stroll may take time □ Latest warning for competitive power market □ Bank's opposition to a rate cut

Adventures in mañana-land

□ NOT a lot of people know this, but Pearson's roots lie in Latin America and the Panama Canal, one of the biggest projects for the 19th century builder that evolved into today's curiously shaped conglomerate.

Lord Blakenham, Pearson's chairman, is keen to repeat the experience, in publishing rather than construction. The key question, given the pace of life in Latin countries, is whether the market will give him the necessary time. Pearson wants to build on the success of Recoletos of Spain by taking chunks of similar businesses in other parts of the Spanish-speaking world, a process that has already started with the purchase of a stake in *El Diario*, a Chilean business newspaper.

There was never any logic in a group bolted together out of a business newspaper, fine china, fine wine, oil services and a half-stake in a merchant bank, whatever Pearson may have said in its heyday. China and oil have gone, and the focus over the past couple of years has been on TV with Grundy, maker of *Neighbours* and various cheap but lucrative game shows, and the disastrous venture into computer games, *Mindscape*.

The focus for the analysts over the same period has been on a relentless underperformance, the shares having lost a fifth of

their value since April. In today's market, when that happens to a conglomerate then talk of a demerger becomes inevitable. Pearson's problem, exacerbated by doubts over who will take over from Frank Barlow, the managing director, has been that no one is too sure where the future lies, whether in entertainment, information or education, or if the current shape is any more suitable than the earlier fine wines and china incarnation. The sale of Westminster Press is at least a move in the right direction, a distinctly mature asset being exchanged for one, Recoletos, that has the potential for growth.

Yesterday's jump in the share price suggests Pearson may at last be getting something right. But consider the contrast with Granada, a sharp outperformer of the market since the purchase of Forté and another conglomerate subject to demerger rumours. These are being stoked by the company itself, with suggestions that the TV division may be floated off shortly. Pearson is reduced to talking down such hopes. But if Greg Dyke,

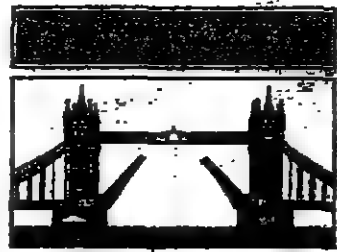
ambitious head of the TV business, loses out in the race to be managing director then such talk will start up again.

"There has been constant speculation on the shape of Pearson," Lord Blakenham insisted yesterday. "There are no plans to announce in the near future any dramatic moves to demerge the TV businesses or any other part of the group." Not by you, m'lord, not by you. But spend too long in mañana-land, and someone else may decide to do the job for you.

Slow burn or gas explosion

□ THERE is a peculiarly British tendency to assume any change to the existing order will end in disaster, as Pearson and the other partners in Channel 5 are learning. But there are times when pessimism is justified.

It has never been conclusively proven that the bulk of the population wants to shop around for such basic essentials as gas and power—the opposite is true, from the miserable showing the



cable television providers have made. Last week one of the biggest, Telewest, tacitly accepting that the market penetration achieved so far is inadequate, responded by putting a salesman rather than a financier in charge.

Current levels of take-up of cable and telecoms services mean almost four out of five people, asked if they want their telephone bills cut by as much as 15 per cent, have said no, thank you. This hardly augurs well for power and gas. The savings there from allowing new providers to undercut British Gas and the local electricity company are about the same, ranging up to 20 per cent. And unlike the telecoms companies with their cable TV channels, the new suppliers have

no new service to offer on tap. Three months into the trial gas market in the South West, only about 10 per cent of customers have switched to a cheaper supplier. Consumer inertia is not the only reason. The weather is hardly conducive to worries about the central heating. Some households will not want to rely on new and unknown businesses; the disgruntled high-pressure sales tactics of the only incumbent utility, South Western Electricity, will have discouraged many others, as will the mess British Gas's Transco made of a batch of final bills to transferring customers.

But the Gas Consumers Council call for further delay is only the latest warning that ministers, in their zeal for a competitive gas market, are moving too fast. If this has to be achieved area by area, and millions have to wait a few months longer for the benefits, so be it. The evidence from the South West hardly suggests they are clamouring for an early, botched transition.

And the Government's belief that the whole country can be offered a matching free market

in electricity overnight by the spring of 1998, without any limited consumer trials, looks little short of lunacy.

Forget economics, this is politics

□ ANOTHER day, another loosey set of manufacturing figures, and more speculation that Kenneth Clarke will use them as an excuse to cut interest rates again. All base rate cuts are politically inspired, but such speculation would surely be inconceivable if we were not months off a general election.

We have all become so used to Kenneth Clarke cutting rates on the merest whisper of economic weakness that we have forgotten that the great new British monetary framework was supposed to set policy based on where inflation is expected to be in two years' time, and not last month.

Eddie George at the Bank of England is doubtless primed to express his disapproval tomorrow when the latest *Inflation Report* is published. But it is increasingly obvious that the

Ken and Eddie double act is nothing more than a sideshow to the political manoeuvring in the run-up to the election. Economic rationality plays little part in all this. Consider: the pound is falling. The trend for interest rates in the US and Japan is upwards — probably. Britain's economic institutions, the London Business School and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, warn against rate and tax cuts but assume that both will happen.

The City trumpets the recovery in the consumer sectors of the economy — which must eventually drag manufacturing back to growth — but still expects lower rates. The Bank warns that it is when the economy gives out mixed signals that most caution must be exercised. But the Bank does not have an election to win.

Heavy traffic

□ WELL into the dog days of August, and the roads may be quieter but the deals keep coming. *Corporate Money* has just logged 1,000 so far this year. Last year's total by value was £75 billion, but strip out three megabids in 1995 and the £56 billion up to end-July looks quite respectable. The trend is for agreed deals; can this reflect one last chance to stitch up the market before the election?



Stephen Davidson, chief executive, says Telewest has seen strong competition from terrestrial television

Telewest market share figures disappoint

BY GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Telewest slipped 2p to 143p yesterday after the City expressed disappointment with the cable television group's market penetration figures. Along with half-year figures, Telewest revealed market penetration for the second quarter of 1996 of 21.1 per cent, little changed from 21.2 per cent in 1995.

Analysts said the market share figures were disappointing, considering the renewed marketing blitz in recent months. Analysts believe that to make cable

television work, market penetration needs to be 30 per cent or more.

Telewest suffered a £117.6 million loss after tax in the six months to the end of June compared with an £38.6 million loss in the first half of last year. There is no dividend.

Stephen Davidson, chief executive, said: "Operating conditions in the second quarter have seen strong competition from terrestrial television, due to the quantity of sport being broadcast, while the telephony sector has seen an aggressive

marketing campaign from British Telecom." However he said: "We achieved further steady growth across all our customers, lines and revenues and have now passed 2.2 million homes, 57 per cent of our network."

He said: "We believe we are now fully funded following the signing of a £1.2 billion banking facility. The increase in our net loss is in line with expectations and we remain on course to go operating cashflow positive during this year."

US blow for Zotefoams

SHARES in Zotefoams, the specialty foam maker, fell 41p to 199p yesterday, after it said that destocking from its main US customer had forced pre-tax profits down 11 per cent to £3.05 million in the year to June 30.

Wrebbitt, a producer of three-dimensional jigsaws, suspended its foam order in February, hitting group sales, which fell 15 per cent to £10.3 million. UK sales rose to £3.5 million, offsetting sluggish demand from the Continent. Earnings fell to 5.6p (6.4p). An interim dividend of 1p (1.8p) will be paid on September 18.

BA growth slowed by increase in fuel prices

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN UNEXPECTED jump in fuel prices hit first-quarter profits at British Airways, costing the airline at least £23 million. Even so, British Airways reported pre-tax profits of £150 million for the three months to June 30, an 11 per cent increase on the £135 million achieved in the same period a year ago.

Much of the improvement was due to a sharp reduction in the cost of borrowings. Operating profit, heavily dependent on costs such as fuel, rose by only £1 million in the same period.

The 14.5 per cent rise in fuel prices was apparently caused by the particularly cold winter, which left oil companies short of supplies, and by a fall in the value of the pound against the

dollar. In some parts of the world, aviation fuel prices rose by more than 20 per cent in the spring. Without the fuel price rise, BA's operating profits would have risen by at least 12 per cent, the airline claimed.

The problems were compounded for BA and other airlines now benefiting from the greatly improved passenger figures, by an increase in the number of hours flown by each aircraft as demand for flights grew. Each additional flight used more of the higher-priced fuel and therefore resulted in an overall increase in fuel costs of more than £50 million.

Neither BA, nor other big airlines affected by the price rise, expect there to be any effect on ticket prices or char-

ter air fares however. BA described the increases as "a blip" and Britannia, Britain's biggest charter airline, said that their forward-buying policy and insurance "hedge" against such rises will protect passengers from any increase.

BA's turnover increased 10.5 per cent to £2.3 billion in the three months, with 8.35 million passengers carried. Although the total number of passengers was only marginally up on the same period last year, on average they flew further and therefore earned more in revenue for the airline. Overall yield was up 6.6 per cent.

Significantly, cargo carryings — always regarded as a key early indicator of the country's economic well-being

— rose by 9.4 per cent. Profit after tax was £115 million, equivalent to earnings of 11.9p per share, up 13.3 per cent on the 10.5p a year ago.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, was in upbeat mood yesterday. "The outlook for the airline industry in general and for British Airways in particular remains encouraging," he said. "This will be another record year for the industry."

"With our current and proposed alliance partnerships and our plans to deliver step change improvements in business efficiency, we are well placed to provide continuing profitable growth for our shareholders and employees."

Timespan, page 26

Calderburn names chief executive

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

CALDERBURN, the troubled office furniture company, yesterday ended its long hunt for a new chief executive with the appointment of Stephen Thomson. Mr Thomson, who was formerly managing director at Occasions, replaces Alec Waddicor, who resigned this year, although he will continue as a consultant.

Christopher Taylor, previously a finance director with Dobson Park Industries, will take over as finance director from Keith Bennett, who also stepped down after the group ran into trouble this year.

Calderburn shares have plummeted from a high of 200p to a low of 31p in bare days after three profits warnings and a slump into the red.

Full-year losses for 1995 totalled £3.75 million, after the company was forced to sell the Cooper Dauphin business at a £4.25 million loss. Calderburn passed on its final dividend. Shares in the company yesterday rose 4p to close at 35p.

Chairman to buy Verson's press division for £29m

BY OLIVER AUGUST

VERSON International, the Midlands machinery maker, plans to sell its press division to Tim Kelleher, the group's executive chairman, for £29 million.

The company yesterday said that given the size of its existing borrowings and the expected increase in working capital required, debt could not be meaningfully reduced through improved operating performance.

Mr Kelleher said: "The disposal of the press division reduces the debt burden significantly and allows the group to develop and focus on its profitable metal processing businesses."

The sale is to be approved by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting. They will also be asked to vote on a change of name at the annual meeting in September. The name "Verson", which is traditionally associated with

printing, is part of the sale and will stay with the press division. The remainder of the machinery maker, split into the Little and Brown divisions, is to be called MetalTech.

After the conclusion of the acquisition Mr Kelleher will resign as chief executive but remain as chairman of MetalTech.

He will also become chairman of Press Purchase Company, the buyers of the press division.

In the year to February 2, 1996, the press division reported losses of £4.7 million on sales of £51.9 million.

In the same period Verson showed operating profits of £300,000 compared with losses of £6.3 million the previous year. Turnover grew from £104 million to £106 million and profits before tax fell from £11.3 million to £4.8 million.

Britannia loyalty adds £3m to costs

BY SARA MCCONNELL

BRITANNIA Building Society's attempts to retain the loyalty of its customers in the face of pressure to convert to a bank has led to a sharp rise in management expenses.

The administration bill rose to £54.1 million (£50.9 million) in the first six months of this year. The extra sum went to fund the costs of setting up the loyalty bonus scheme and improvements to the customer database.

John Hoops, chief executive, said 50 per cent of customers had already responded to mailshots introducing the bonus scheme, which will award bonuses to savers and borrowers.

Pre-tax profits for the first six months of this year rose to £57.3 million, up 13 per cent on last year, mostly because of a halving of provisions for bad debts, from £15.1 million in the first half of 1995 to £7.1 million in 1996. Gross lending was up 90 per cent on the same period last year at £740.6 million.

Income and charges from fees and commissions fell from £27.4 million to £26.7 million.

HSBC Holdings plc



1996 Interim Results

Half year to	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
Profit before tax	£2,321m	£1,737m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£1,586m	£1,203m
Earnings per share	60.14p	46.11p
Dividends per share	15.00p	9.25p
Capital resources	£23,403m	£19,464m

Comment by Sir William Purves, HSBC Group Chairman

Our results for the first half of 1996 were good. A number of features were particularly satisfying. In Midland Bank, operating expenses declined. First Direct continued to make good progress, adding 88,000 customers and steadily growing its profitability. Our global custody business won significant new accounts. In Hong Kong, action taken in the last eighteen months to strengthen and expand our treasury centre has generated stronger foreign exchange earnings. Hang Seng Bank continued to expand the proportion of its balance sheet taken up by advances to customers. Our other businesses in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region also performed well.

The Board has declared a first interim dividend of 15 pence per share, an increase of 62 per cent compared with 9.25 pence declared at this stage in 1995. This increased interim dividend reflects both the Group's improved results and the desire to increase the proportion of the annual distribution paid out at the interim stage.

The Board also plans to accelerate the distribution of dividends following the year-end by paying a second interim dividend in respect of 1996 in lieu of a final dividend. This dividend will be declared with the year-end results in early March for payment in early May.

Our markets remain highly competitive and are undergoing structural change. With strong capital and liquidity and with a loyal and dedicated workforce, we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

First half 1996 over first half 1995:

- Pre-tax profit up 34% and attributable profit up 32%
- Pre-tax profit up 28% and attributable profit up 27% in Hong Kong dollars
- Earnings per share up 30%
- Dividends per share up 62%
- Total capital ratio 15.3% and tier 1 capital ratio 9.8%

The 1996 Interim Report will be sent to shareholders on Friday, 16 August 1996 and copies may be obtained from Group Public Affairs at the address below.

Incorporated in England with limited liability
Registered in England: number 617987
Registered Office and Group Head Office: 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6AE, United Kingdom

STOCK MARKET

KAREN ZAGOR

HSBC's strong showing helps to buoy shares

SHARES held on to modest gains throughout the day in a market buoyed by the strong close on Wall Street on Friday and better than expected interim profits from HSBC, the large banking group that owns Midland.

Volume was slight, however, as traders awaited Wednesday's quarterly inflation report from the Bank of England and a spate of economic news from the US.

"There is a combination of excuses for not dealing," said one leading broker, who noted that the summer torpor had set in, further muting the market. "There has also been a slight change in the interest rate state of play. The outlook for lower interest rates has shifted to unchanged to higher rates. While that change takes place, the market tends to wait and see until there is a clear path ahead," he added.

On Friday, the Dow Jones industrial average surged 85.08 points to 5,679.83 in response to news of a slowdown in the US job report, alleviating fears about inflation and a rise in short-term interest rates. Large movements on Wall Street usually reverberate in the UK, but brokers said attention was firmly focused on UK economic news for the week, now that the US jobless figures had been absorbed. The FT-SE 100 ended near its high of the day, at 3,788.3, up 17.7 points.

In such a thin market individual share price movements tend to be exaggerated. HSBC, whose finance director is Douglas Flint, was the biggest blue chip mover of the day, with the ordinary shares climbing 48p to 1,046p, considerably above the previous high for the year of 1,024p.

The rise followed the release of interim profits at the international investment banking group which owns Midland Bank. The unexpectedly strong results triggered a round of broker upgrades for the stock, with new estimates for 1996 earnings.

The HSBC board has also restructured its dividend payments to put the final payout in the hands of shareholders a month earlier than it was previously paid.

Pearson was another top-performing blue chip issue, climbing 19p to 630p as the market applauded the sale of the group's Westminster Press operations for £305 million to Newsquest. Pearson's interim



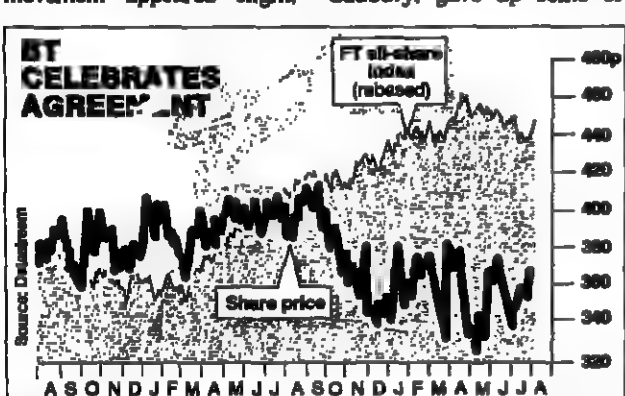
HSBC's Douglas Flint and Sir William Purves, chairman

results were on the disappointing side, but traders took heart from signs that the company's US Midscape computer games business, while still over the water, appears to be over the worst.

British Telecom was the most heavily traded issue of the day. The company's eleven-month settlement with Ofcom, the regulator, over pricing

speculation that a predator is about to snap up Aberdeen Steak Houses sent shares soaring to 70p from 38p. A statement from the USM-quoted restaurant chain saying it knew of no reason for the price movement failed to halt the gains. The company recently said that the BSE score would hurt first-half results.

ing helped shares in BT to rise to 365.5p. There had been concern that BT would fail to reach an agreement and that the case would be referred to the Mergers and Monopolies Commission, where it could have dragged on for another year. The settlement was announced late Friday, after the markets had closed for the day. Although share price movement appeared slight,



BT CELEBRATES AGREEMENT

Friday's gains when a takeover offer failed to materialise. Traders said there was also evidence that American buying had contributed to Friday's 20p price rise. The shares fell 10p to 529p.

British Airways slipped 6.5p to 534p in spite of positive first-quarter profits which broadly met analysts' expectations. There was some concern that growth had come from lower interest charges instead of revenue growth and that spending on personnel and fuel was higher than the market would have liked.

There is also concern that British Airways' alliance with American Airlines may not proceed as smoothly as expected and that USAir is moving through the US courts to sever its ties with BA.

In the drugs sector, Zeneca's shares hit 145p, up 13p, amid speculation that the company is the target of a friendly takeover bid from SmithKline Beecham, which added 4p to 719p. Brokers were also bullish about the company's interim results. Zeneca is expected to unveil double-digit earnings growth, led by improvements in agrochemicals.

A nine-for-one stock split was good news for British Biotech, which last month failed to meet its offer price of £20.50. The shares advanced 13.5p to 231p. Among other biotechnology issues, Celltech firmed 21p to 535p and Chiroscience was up 6p to 371p.

On the Alternative Investment Market, Network Technology, which started trading last week, consolidated its gains by adding 21p to close at 164p. The gains followed reports that brokers expect the shares to hit 200p.

GILT-EDGED: The day started on a slow note, with prices edging downwards ahead of the industrial production data. When the numbers arrived, they were weaker than expected, helping the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 to advance £5.34 to £103.14.

At the long end, the Treasury 8 per cent 2015 added £5.34 to £99.32 while in the futures pits the September long gilt gained £5.10 to £108 with 21,000 contracts completed.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street were marginally stronger after last week's rally and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was ahead by 7.40 points at 5,687.23.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5687.23 (+7.40) S&P Composite 602.47 (+0.02)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 21077.41 (+137.06)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 11071.43 (+109.46)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 550.12 (+0.33)

Sydney: AO 2253.7 (+25.1)

Frankfurt: DAX 2520.93 (+12.28)

Singapore: Straits 2146.72 (+10.25)

Brussels: General 9507.45 (+66.41)

Paris: CAC-40 2013.19 (+10.22)

Zurich: SFA Gen 739.10 (+5.60)

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TEMPUS

Better than it sounds

THE trouble with HSBC Holdings is that it even sounds like a conglomerate. Banks should have solid, conservative and sensible names like Midland or National Westminster. Acronyms bring to mind depressing thoughts of BTR or BET, comparisons that do injustice to a company that boasts a return on equity exceeding 20 per cent and yesterday delivered half-year profits growth of a third.

Unfortunately, the market is suspicious and gives HSBC insufficient credit for its astonishing performance. Part of the problem may be a hiccup in 1994 when the bank's proprietary traders lost a bundle in bonds. Hong Kong, HSBC's banking arms in the Colony are earning huge margins on mortgage business — double the rates that might prevail in the UK. Some of the gain is due to

the unusually low cost of wholesale funds. Hong Kong is an island of big savers and HSBC's banks are regarded as a secure place to deposit cash for people who may have an eye on the door marked exit or at least prefer to deal with banks that do not share information with party officials.

The Hong Kong factor may depress HSBC's ratings but it also explains the strength of the bank, which is massively underlent. It gives the organisation an enviable cost/income ratio (huge margins in Hong Kong and lack of a redundant portfolio of bank branches) and explains why HSBC could fund the development of First Direct in the UK. The conglomerate of financial services in the UK and Asia has been good for HSBC. Even better are promises that it has no plans to squander capital on expensive bids.

Commercial property

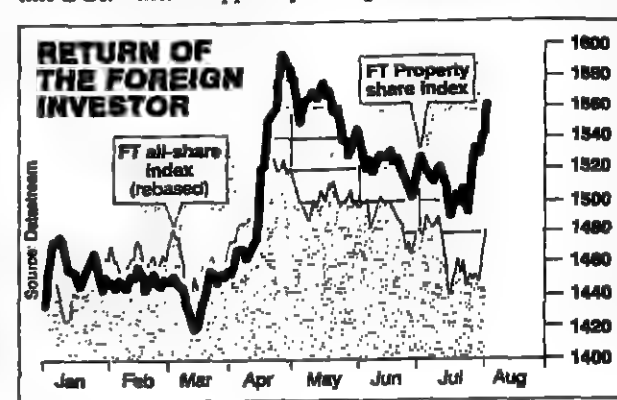
A SENSE of déjà vu pervades yesterday's big property deal at Sea Containers House. No matter that the investments appear to be hopelessly exorbitant; the attraction is the income and the secure covenant from the tenant. The mysterious buyers of Sea Containers House will have to wait for their return, but were the building to be let today it might fetch £17 per square foot, about half the current income. However that is not a concern if long-term gilt yields are below 8 per cent.

The idea is to borrow heavily against the secure rental income — in this case guaranteed by Sea Containers (a substantial company) and HM Customs and Excise (the other tenant). An investment yield approaching 9 per cent

means that the buyers should be able to cover the cost of financing the deal substantially with debt leaving their equity highly geared to any movement in capital values.

Surveyors were stitching together dozens of such deals three or four years ago, mainly with German funds like DGL, which snapped up

the Land Securities building in Knightsbridge. When Britain left the ERM and sterling plummeted, British property seemed cheap to foreigners. It still looks cheap to patient money, but if property shares are on the rise, it has more to do with relief that companies like Land Sec can find buyers for ex-growth assets.



British Airways

POLITICIANS seeking reelection brought up the soundbite. Company directors with their eyes on a better share price have adopted the "big number". The big number is useful because it is impressive but meaningless — and British Airways used it to perfection three months ago when it announced a target of £1 billion of "business enhancements".

For an airline with some £7 billion of costs, removal of £1 billion would indeed be impressive. But it quickly became clear that BA's bosses were not to be drawn into the vulgar detail of spelling out what they mean by business enhancements. That might excite the airline unions, who are a little jittery these days, but more problematic, the shareholders might be able to measure performance by comparing what was said with what was achieved.

Yesterday, BA announced figures which seemed to indi-

cate that costs were on the rise while core business profits were up only £1 million to £195 million. Indeed, most of the growth seemed to come from a reduction in losses at TAT, the French operation. BA was quick to explain that the weak profit growth was because of currency fluctuations and higher fuel costs, but overall costs have been steadily rising.

Perhaps that is what enhancement really means.

Alders

TALKS between Alders and Peter Green about buying some of his Owen Owen department store chain have an air of desperation about them. Alders has been sitting on £100 million of cash since it sold its duty-free operations to Swissair earlier this summer. Shareholders were last month told to expect a "significant" return of cash, but expectations may have to be trimmed as Alders wants to buy more department stores.

Owen Owen has, to put it kindly, a chequered past. After a disastrous move upmarket in the last recession, they were sold to Mr Green, who made his name in discount retailing, notably with Waitrose.

A price of £123 million for up to eight stores may not, financially, be a bad deal: industry estimates are that turnover for all of Alders's 13 stores was £137 million last year.

However, a lot depends on how many and which stores make up the package, and Peter Green is not known to be a pushover when it comes to negotiating.

Without its duty-free division, Alders has become somewhat vulnerable. Buying a few Owen Owen stores may provide it with the illusory security of turnover, but Alders is in danger of acting on the "never mind the quality, feel the width" principle. Such deals rarely end well.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA 1000-1000 1000-1000

COFFEE 1000-1000 1000-1000

WHEAT 1000-1000 1000-1000

BARLEY 1000-1000 1000-1000

MAIZE 1000-1000 1000-1000

SUGAR 1000-1000 1000-1000

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

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FT-SE 250 1000-1000 1000-1000

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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Go to work with an egg-timer

GAVIN CASEY, the man who made his million at Smith New Court, made his debut as chief executive of the Stock Exchange yesterday. His 11-hour day included a tour of the building, lunch with John Kemp-Welch, the chairman, and meeting a myriad of new faces. But, along with a couple of pictures to hang on the walls of his new office, what most took Stock Exchange staff by surprise was the foot-high egg-timer that Casey carried in under his arm. What some must have missed was the telling engraving — "Time is money".

Wrong number

IN THE long-running saga of Britain's changing telephone numbers, Don Cruickshank, the Director-General of Telecommunications, was at pains yesterday to make assurances that his new scheme would not involve callers from overseas dialling even longer numbers than they do already. "From France, they will call London on 00 44 20 followed by eight digits, instead of 00 44 171 followed by seven digits," he said. Signs of some consumer confusion here. Callers from France will not get through at all, unless they use France's prescribed code for international calls — 19 not 00.



Landmark dates

AS GROUP chairman of HSBC, Sir William Purves naturally keeps a weather eye on the landmark Hong Kong handover date next year. But at HSBC's results conference yesterday, Sir William was quizzed on another landmark date — his 65th birthday on December 27 this year. "I note my passing birthdays, but coming so soon after Christmas my family have never noticed it," he read. "If you, however, are talking about me hanging up my boots — when my colleagues tell me to go I'll go with alacrity."

High-flyer

PETER SMITH, chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, was celebrating his fiftieth birthday with his family in Bermuda yesterday, and musing on his next adventure. Smith, who learnt to fly during his student days at Southampton University, is talking to the sky in a vintage plane on September 1, to wave goodbye to John Fisher, a senior partner at Coopers. Fisher is heading for a world record — he will attempt to fly from London to Sydney in a 50-year-old Tiger Moth, covering 12,000 miles in 30 days. Smith has borrowed a vintage plane to send Fisher on his way.

THE legal eagle working on the Leeds United/Caspian case are obviously not George Michael fans. In fact, the egg-heads from the High Court were rather bemused by a piece of evidence submitted by Edge & Ellison, Caspian's firm of lawyers. The cryptic evidence was an internal memorandum that came under "Tropicana", the deal codename for Caspian. "Club" was the codename given to Leeds United, and the bid itself was christened "Project Wham".

MORAG PRESTON

Peace pact with Oftel leaves BT free to talk about deals

Eric Reguly looks at the options for unregulated expansion

It is hard to imagine that any new executive has had a more hectic and feverish start than Sir Peter Bonfield. The former boss of ICL, became BT's chief executive in January and was told by Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, that his first assignment would be negotiating a £35 billion merger with rival Cable and Wireless.

When the talks broke down in May, he immediately found himself trying to negotiate an equally tricky deal with Oftel, the telecommunications regulator. Sir Peter and Oftel finally made their peace on Friday. In what can only be described as a victory for Oftel, BT accepted a regulatory package that will see its prices continue to drop until 2001. Oftel also managed to convince BT to accept a clause that would allow it to stop any practices it considers anti-competitive.

Although the new regulatory regime is not to BT's liking, Sir Peter is probably secretly pleased with the outcome. Rejecting the regime would have automatically triggered a monopolies inquiry, a process that would have virtually paralysed BT for no less than six months and, in all likelihood, as long as a year. For the first time since January, Sir Peter now has the freedom to make his mark on BT. What are his options?

If nothing else, Oftel's largely successful offensive has impressed on Sir Peter that the sooner he reduces BT's exposure to the highly regulated and increasingly competitive UK market, the better. BT is becoming more international — it has alliances in several European countries and owns 20 per cent of MCI, America's second largest long-distance carrier — but its domestic operations generate the bulk of its income. BT's European partnerships, such as Viag InterKom in Germany and Albacom in Italy, were only recently formed and will produce little or no income for some time.

BT, of course, will continue to develop overseas partnerships — France is the big hole in Europe — and will expand the reach of Concert, its international telecoms joint venture with MCI. BT is also thought to be holding talks with several potential partners in Japan in an effort to get on the map in Asia.

But none of these moves will dramatically alter BT's fortunes. Telecoms experts think



Sir Peter Bonfield has the freedom to make his mark for the first time since taking the helm

BT will have to make a big splash somewhere soon and America looks like a good place to start.

At the very least, BT has to protect its \$4.3 billion investment in MCI. The US telecoms market has changed radically since BT bought its MCI stake in 1993 and the upheaval does not necessarily work in MCI's favour. Then, MCI shared the long-distance and overseas market with AT&T and Sprint. The so-called Baby Bells, the regional phone companies that were hived off of AT&T in 1984, were shut out. The new Telecommunications Act has gone a long way to break down these barriers, meaning that local carriers, cable companies and long-distance operators can compete in each other's markets.

MCI will face pressure on two fronts. The Baby Bells are starting to merge, creating

super-regional carriers. By doing so, they hope to steal some business from MCI, AT&T and Sprint by capturing the long-distance traffic between their regions. Secondly, the Baby Bells will increasingly



Brown knows the US market

strike deals to get into the overseas market. In a report, James R. Hoffa, an analyst with Moore, Govett, and Partners, said: "This potentially undermines the competitive position of MCI."

MCI's main revenue stream comes from its long-distance market and the company may require extra funding to meet the competitive challenge which it faces. MCI has a variety of options. It may decide to buy or merge with a Baby Bell or — with a partner such as AT&T — build its own "local loop" network. Either way, BT would have to get involved. Because it is the main outside shareholder of MCI, it would have to back MCI's move into the local market and might have to stump up much of the funds to make it possible. Another scenario involves BT and MCI forming an alliance to enter the local market. It is thought that MCI and BT

have held talks with AT&T and Bell Atlantic, the regional phone companies that recently merged to create an eastern seaboard telecoms giant, and Bell South.

During their shopping expedition, BT and MCI may run into Cable and Wireless, C&W's next major move also expected to be in the US, where it is widely expected to form an alliance or a partnership with a regional phone company.

Richard Brown, C&W's new chief executive, knows the US market well. He is an American and spent much of his career with Ameritech, the regional phone company in the Midwest. At the annual general meeting in June, Brian Smith, the chairman, said that strengthening the company's American presence was a "priority".

C&W might make an ideal overseas partner for any regional carrier with international ambitions because it has operations in more than 30 countries. C&W's large, but low-profile US company, called C&W Inc, could be put into the mix to create a transatlantic force.

The main obstacles to the grand overseas ambitions of BT and C&W could be BT and C&W themselves. They may decide to put any big strategic moves on hold if there is any chance of resuming merger talks. The talks are officially dead, with each side privately blaming the other for their failure, but many of the executives and advisers who took part in the talks still believe that a marriage would create a world-beating force in telecoms.

Many of the hurdles had already been overcome. The general ownership structure had been agreed. It would have been done through a reverse takeover, in which C&W would have become the technical owner of BT. The structure would have preserved C&W's operating licences around the world. C&W also agreed in principle to sell its 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications to avoid a monopolies problem in the UK.

Nonetheless, many obstacles remained. Valuation was a key problem. BT, which argued that C&W needed BT more than the other way round, was unwilling to value C&W shares at much of a premium. Another deal-killing obstacle was the indecision over which of the companies' German alliances should be sacrificed.

The share prices of both companies rose when they confirmed that they were in merger talks, and declined when they collapsed. C&W's fell further. Unless Sir Peter and Mr Brown can bring out the value that each of them claims is hidden in their companies, do not be surprised if they go knocking on each other's doors again.

Power of the 'grey' pound

In the stampede to the nation's car showrooms to pick up gleaming P-reg cars last week, a high proportion of grey-haired enthusiasts led the charge. Pensioners, perhaps, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders estimates that a high proportion of private rather than fleet sales are in older consumers.

The proportion of sales of imported cars always goes up in August. This, the SMMT suggests, is because foreign manufacturers are much more attuned to the requirements of older customers: cars that are automatic, have power steering, and are economical on fuel.

The P-reg rush gives us two insights. One is the increasing power of the "grey pound". The other is that most companies and advertisers have not yet woken up to it. A few findings from the TGI Gold survey of the 30-plus market conducted by the British Market Research Bureau International gives a scale to the phenomenon. In Britain, 17.5

Older people are still discriminated against and ignored as a potential consumer market

million are aged 50 or over, accounting for 38 per cent of the adult population. Between now and 2001, the number of over-50s is expected to grow 12 per cent. The average income of people over 50 is £13,067 a year — a total of £24.5 billion.

Saga, which has so successfully tapped the Third Age market in holidays and magazines, cites figures showing that households headed by persons someone over 50 spend £124.62 per person per week (£15.58 per household) — headed by someone under 50, £112.64. All in all, households headed by 50-plus spend £135 billion a year. Remember that these households are usually smaller, with children having flown the nest, and you get some idea of their combined spending power. Of course, it is important not to run away with the idea that our older generation is suddenly uniformly rich. As Age Concern says, only 1.3 per cent of people aged 65 or over are well off enough to pay tax at the highest rate and two thirds have an income too low to pay income tax at all. Those dependent purely on

a state pension whose value has been whittled away are struggling badly.

But there is an increasing proportion who have been able to add to their state pension over the years and, more importantly, who have opted to take out private, usually occupational, pensions. As the 1996 edition of *Social Trends* notes, recently retired pensioner units (either a single person over 65 or a couple where the husband is over state pension age) had a gross income of £220.50 a week in 1993 against £170.20 for all pensioners. Incomes are gradually improving because of the rise in occupational pensions and will continue to do so.

And yet older people are still discriminated against and ignored as a potential consumer market. Saga has pending an application for an FM radio station in

London, targeted at this forgotten generation. As things now stand, most stations are devoted to the youth audience and more than half of the

over 50s do not currently listen to commercial radio as a result. What a huge potential market for advertisers.

It must be one of the worst examples of misjudging one's market that many car hire firms have not been inclined to do business with those over 70, as Eric Reid, of the Association of Retired and Persons Over Fifty points out. Nor have pensioners found it easy to get credit cards (partly a problem with the 1974 Consumer Credit Act that has allowed companies to apply different criteria for those over 70).

And insurance company discrimination against older customers means that many of the valued customers who snapped up P-reg cars last week would not have been offered test drives. Peugeot, for example offered a 24-hour test drive on its 106, but not to anyone over 75. Other companies have done the same. Mr Reid says many of his 100,000 members were furious. As the rest of us save any spare cash to pay for our own retirement (the State strictly won't), advertisers, car companies and the rest ignore the grey pound at their peril.

Rachel Bridge says the lessons from Atlanta have been noted

Sydney starts its Olympic marathon

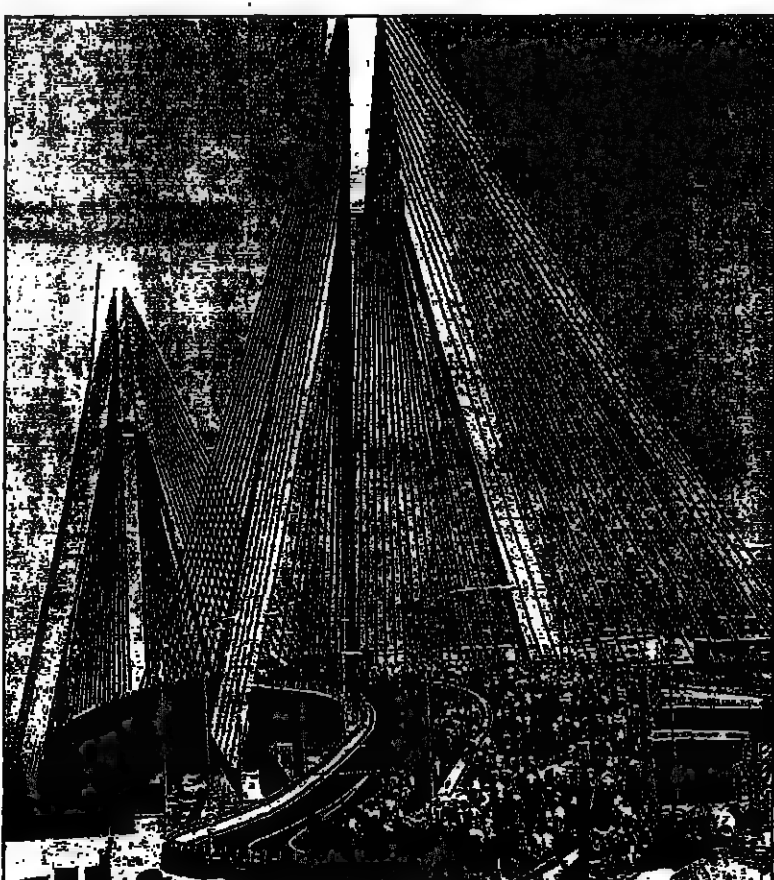
As the curtains came down on the Atlanta Games, businessmen in Australia yesterday set off on a new Olympic marathon — the countdown to Sydney in four years' time.

Olympic protocol requires that a country may only begin actively marketing its own games once the previous games are over. With some A\$400 million (£201 million) of sponsorship still to find, Australia was yesterday wasting little time in getting going. Company executives and tourism officials were already nervously comparing notes on what can be done to make things work more efficiently next time round.

Indeed, in a bid to avoid the transport and security problems that besieged Atlanta — not to mention the disaster of its high-tech computer system — Sydney plans to stage a trial run of the games some nine months before the real thing takes place. Bob Carr, the Premier of New South Wales, said: "We've got to give ourselves enough time so that we can make any fine-tuning necessary before the event."

Much of the framework for the games is already in place, with some 15 sporting venues already built. But the biggest test for the Sydney Olympic committee will be making sure that it gets all the numbers right on the day.

Tourism officials, for example, have spent the past few months giving warning that the city needs a further 5,000 hotel rooms at least in order to meet demand during the games. After their observations in Atlanta, however, organisers are questioning the wisdom of building developments that will be needed for just two weeks. The fund manager of Bankers Trust Hotel Group said: "We are not sure economic condi-



The marathon in 2000 will cross Sydney's newly opened Glebe Island Bridge

tions justify new developments just for the Olympics."

The organisers have also taken note of the food requirements of the typical Olympic visitor — junk food and not quality restaurants were the order of the day in Atlanta. Michael Fischer, president of the New South

Wales Restaurant and Catering Association, said: "I've eaten more burgers and hotdogs in the past ten days I've been here than I had before in my whole life. My body is saying 'what are you doing to me?'"

Sydney's tourist industry leaders are also re-evaluating their Olympic

blueprint in the light of their experiences in Atlanta. These included being forced to make a last-minute change of hotel after discovering that the agent who had booked it had pocketed most of the money.

Indeed, the whole sobering Atlanta experience appears to have sent a shockwave through the business community down under. There have been calls for more taxis, more policemen, a speeding up of the construction programme and even government leadership to turn the whole event into a giant trade fair to showcase Australia's talents.

Michael Knight, New South Wales Olympics Minister, yesterday diplomatically gave the Atlanta games "eight out of ten", although he too said that in the light of his experiences there, there would be some "re-ordering of priorities".

For the organising committee, the challenge is on to find ten national sponsors prepared to stump up A\$40 million apiece for the games. The committee admits this will be no mean feat. A spokesman said: "It is by far the biggest marketing exercise ever undertaken in Australia. It's a huge request in a country which has just 18 million people." IBM, the computer group whose new computer system so enlivened the Atlanta proceedings by awarding medals to non-participants and announcing world records that turned out not to be, is already on board as a A\$50 million sponsor for the Sydney Games. It will once again be providing the key information systems for the event. It has promised to try to get a better grip on customer requirements by the time the year 2000 comes around.

Bank customers have to pay a high price for modern technology

From Geoffrey H. Lloyd

Sir, I have been arranging with my bank to repay a further instalment of the mortgage on our home. The same bank is also the mortgagee. When I received the redemption statement I was offered a choice of methods to repay the bank: first, by a process with the seemingly benign acronym of CHAPS (clearing house automated payment system), and secondly, by cheque.

In this (supposedly) technological age I considered that CHAPS was the logical option to go for: it is electronic and, therefore, fast; it removes the need for paper; the transaction was within the same bank; and the bank did not need to transfer money from an investment account to my current account to fund the cheque.

To opt for modern technology will cost me £20. To opt for the old fashioned and long drawn out, process of cheque

clearance will cost me only a first-class stamp, 26p. I have chosen the latter.

It was explained to me that the CHAPS charge was due to increased computer time and increased handling costs, including the time of the departmental manager to authorise the transaction!

We have been led to believe that more computer technology, with consequential large staff savings, was going to lead to lower costs. In turn, this was going to lead to greater efficiencies and lower charges to customers, especially if customers were prepared to co-operate over electronic transfers.

Are the banks really interested in embracing modern technology?

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY H. LLOYD
(Management Consultant),
Longacre,
73 High Street,
Little Wilbraham,
Cambridge.

Investors must vote for change of auditor

From D. F. Murray

Sir, With reference to articles on limited liability audit. Shareholders and investors in proposed limited liability audit clients are being offered accounts which the auditors consider to be unreliable.

Therefore, with the assistance of Institutions, shareholders and investors must vote for a change of auditor.

firstly for a peer review and then for the restoration of their right to published annual financial statements that are objective and reliable.

Yours sincerely,
D. F. MURRAY,
3 Beaufort Court,
Admirals Walk,
Littlehampton,
West Sussex.

Equities rise in dull trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	% Chg	PE
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■ VISUAL ART 1

A love of film links the six young artists in *Scream and Scream Again*, the multimedia show at Moma in Oxford

■ VISUAL ART 2

Four artists preserve for posterity the original details of Bankside, future home to the Tate

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

Philip-Lorca diCorcia's pictures of Santa Monica Boulevard look like glossy stills from an unmade movie

■ TOMORROW

After 50 years of festivals, do visitors still find enough to refresh their souls in Edinburgh?

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on six intriguing film installations at Oxford's Museum of Modern Art; plus other shows

Life and death in the glow of magic lanterns

To judge by its title, *Scream and Scream Again*, the latest exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford ought to be awash with blood and corpses. After all, the 1969 film from which this show takes its name starred Vincent Price as a mad scientist who creates a super-race of vampires.

But the six young artists included in the Oxford survey are, for the most part, averse to violence. Fascinated by film, they see no point in mirroring Hollywood's shameless addiction to gore.

Not that their contributions are bland. Isaac Julien, whose *Young Soul Rebels* won a Cannes award five years ago, has no hesitation in immersing us in grief. Aids is the spectre lurking within *Trusled*, his double film projection specially commissioned for the show. The soundtrack accompanying it is plaintive yet restrained, dominated by a single, sustained note drawn out to a painful duration.

Lyrical images of homosexual love-making soon give way to more disturbing scenes, focusing on a man suspended upside-down in space. Through his eyes, we see the faces of male onlookers, and the swaying rhythm gives the film an increasingly dreamlike flavour. A man in pyjamas, confined to a wheelchair, is visited by a friend bearing flowers. Petals reappear, floating on the surface of water where a face seems to be drowning.

In the most elegiac sequence, a leather-clad white mourner carries a black man's inert body in a pose immediately reminiscent of a Renaissance Pietà. Premature death is inescapable, but Julien constantly reminds us of its links with erotic delight by moving freely between images associated with bereavement and ecstasy alike.

The whole experience is reminiscent of watching an early silent film, where the

director would linger on the close-up of a face or a tormented figure in order to generate an intense, meditative mood. Lisa Roberts, the New York-based artist who has made *Trap Door* for this exhibition, shares the desire to slow down the expectations we normally bring to film viewing. But where Julien is openly emotional, Roberts is detached and coldly analytical.

The triangular structure of large screens installed in her room has a sculptural presence, and she allows the

These young artists are fascinated by film

projectors to occupy a prominent place at its centre. Their mechanical clatter is the only sound we can hear, as three silent 16mm films are beamed on to the screens. Images of gesturing hands and naked bodies alternate with shots of landscapes, apparently glimpsed from a moving train or car.

Public and private realms are contrasted, and sometimes interrupted by isolated words, such as "Here". They recall the use of printed dialogue and headings in silent films, but serve only to stress enigma rather than offer any explanations. The effect is fragmented, as if Roberts wants to frustrate any attempt to build up a coherent narrative.

The film projected on to a fourth screen, marooned elsewhere in the room, offers no key to the work's overall meaning. Instead, the camera travels round a bronze statue of three dancing female nudes. Their intimacy, pitched against the backdrop of a park, brings together Rob-

erts's public/private themes in a single image at last.

In *Black and White (Baby-lon)*, Douglas Gordon takes a 1950s stripper film as his starting point, and slows it down on one screen to an almost hallucinatory extent. The generously endowed woman goes through her disrobing ritual with plenty of winks, smirks and wriggles. But she might as well be performing underwater, and her sluggish movements accentuate the absurd artifice of the whole event.

On a neighbouring, somewhat larger screen, the same film is projected upside-down. Unlike the inverted man in Julien's work, this gesticulating figure becomes virtually abstract. She is drained of allure, and for that reason proves far less watchable than the stripper on the other screen. The latter may well be more compelling than she would seem when projected at normal speed. But her slowness here often approaches the condition of painting, and stirs memories of French 19th-century nudes from Delacroix's *Odalisque* to Manet's deadpan yet defiant *Olympia*.

If Gordon's stripper is archly aware of the male gaze, the Dutch artist Marijke van Warmerdam turns the tables by confronting us with row after row of staring, motionless men.

Placing a 16mm projector in the middle of her space, she shows a colour film of a crowd gathered round her in a Marakesh marketplace. Van Warmerdam's camera moves around the circle of faces, largely those of men and boys, who all watch her intently. The motion of her lens is reenacted in the gallery, for the projector gradually revolves and carries these life-size images of the crowd round the walls of the room.

The effect is oddly mesmerising. After a while, the ranks of Moroccans begin to look predatory as they circle, endlessly and expectantly. And we, standing near the projector,

find ourselves placed in the artist's position as the assembled faces seem to stare at us with voyeuristic fascination.

Sadie Benning, by contrast, trains the lens on herself. She invites us into a small, enclosed and stuffy space with viewing benches provided. The surroundings seem designed to prepare viewers for a confessional experience, and Benning does not disappoint.

Astonishingly, this precocious Illinois-based artist made *It Wasn't Love* with a toy video camera when she was only 19. Concentrating for the most part on her own face performing a variety of male and female roles, she produces the equivalent of a diary. It is supposed to record the development of her first lesbian affair, but the incessant play-acting makes clear that the story is only a fantasy.

Benning uses disco and movie soundtrack music with wry and witty briskness, heightening the impact of a work already made urgent by the starkness of the video's raw, bleached-out quality. She also intercuts, without warning, clips from 1950s Hollywood films: family "problem" pictures and gangster mas-

saes, which blend uneasily with the cute lyrics of songs such as the rock'n'roll standard *A Teenager in Love*.

Whether brandishing an aggressive cigar or pointing at the lens, Benning is the star of her own show. But a well-developed sense of irony prevents her from descending into an outrageous display of adolescent egotism.

The most powerful contribution of all comes last. In Moma Oxford's largest gallery, Tony Oursler's *System for Dramatic Feedback* explores the gulf between cinematic excitement and the frustration of lonely lives. On the end wall, a film of a movie audience presides over the entire space. These faces, alternating between dimly lit obscurity and brilliant illumination, exploding from the invisible screen, are enthralled. Rummaging popcorn into their mouths, the people in the front row seem to bask in communal enjoyment.

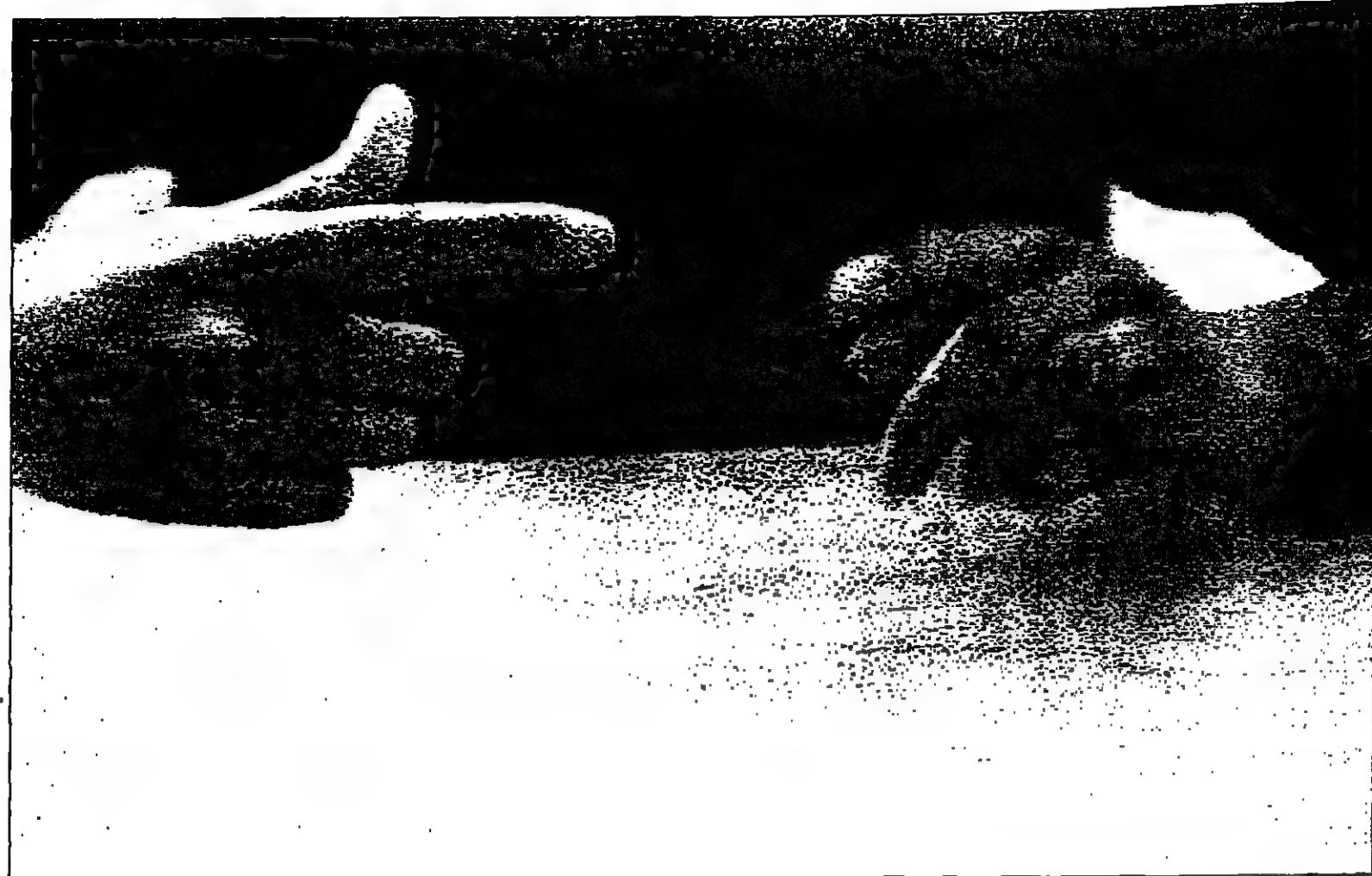
The rest of Oursler's installation, though, is bitterly devoid of pleasure. In one corner, a tiny doll-like figure stands behind a video projector which beams a screaming head on to the dummy. Towards the centre of the room,

another hapless inmate sprawls on the floor, bottom stuck in the air. A video-projected hand spans it repeatedly, and the same kind of meaningless aggression links two larger dummies near by. One, suspended upside-down like the dangling man in Julien's film, constantly hits a neighbour's face with a fist.

Each of the people in Oursler's asylum-like arena seems doomed to repeat a futile action. They are all trapped in numbing isolation, and the mood becomes even more desolate when we encounter two white spheres hovering in space. Both of them are animated by projected images of eyes, enlarged so much that minute sequences from a TV game show can be seen mirrored in their pupils.

The gathering sense of desperation is summed up by a figure unable to do anything except rest his bloated, twitching face on the floor. Paralysed by loneliness, he gives the lie to the sensation of wellbeing savoured on the end wall by the audience in the cinema's dark and deceptive interior.

● *Scream and Scream Again: Film in Art*, is at Moma Oxford (01865 722733) until Sept 22



"A desire to slow down the expectations we normally bring to film viewing": part of the American Lisa Roberts's 16mm film installation, *Trap Door*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

Insiders have known for some time that the photographs of Larry Clark exerted a potent influence on film-makers like Martin Scorsese and Gus Van Sant. The images of derelict youth in his first book, *Tulsa* (1971), were grainy black-and-white, and had a wilfully documentary air. Recently things have changed dramatically. Clark has made his own first feature film, *Kids*, and created a media storm with it.

As the exhibition of the same name at the Photographers' Gallery now indicates, his still images have burst into colour, too. The first temptation is to say that they are less documentary than before. But that is probably a lingering prejudice connected with the idea that black-and-white is real and earnest, and colour automatically glossy and artificial. It is also the case, though, that the world of the "skateboard generation" Clark now depicts is in itself more self-conscious, better able to present itself and its own styles to the camera. The pictures in *Kids*, the exhibition, document quite consciously the images that the kids are knowingly manufacturing for themselves: the truth in them may not be unvarnished, but nonetheless it is there.

Clark clearly prefers to photograph good-looking lads — there are virtually no girls in this world, which, again, may well be perfectly accurate — and the results often look like trendy fashion ads. Taken in conjunction with *Kids*, the movie, their subject may be truly alarming. Or they may indicate that these young people are more in control, even of their vices and addictions, than their elders dare to think possible.

The other major show at the Photographers' Gallery also has strong cinematic connections. Philip-Lorca diCorcia calls his latest pictures *Hollywood*, and they are like very glossy stills from an unmade movie. They are, he insists, fictional, even if the people who appear in them are hand-picked off Santa Monica Boulevard, and include hustlers, drifters and junkies: it is left up to us to decide (if we will) which are which.

They are photographed in carefully selected or constructed interiors, usually avoiding the vacuity or arbitrariness we are always told the basic facts about them (including how much they were paid for the session), but otherwise everything is left to our imagination. Curiously, the genesis of this series was in a funding condition that diCorcia's next work was guaranteed not to be obscene. The Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 8 Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-631 1772) Clark until Aug 31, diCorcia until Sept 7

Monoprints are frequently perceived as perverse and affected: why, after you have made the original painting in oils, watercolour or whatever, transfer it to another piece of paper, when, as the name indicates, you end up with a unique image anyway? Few artists can give a logical answer to that, but the fascination of the textures produced by the process are undeniable. The makers of monoprints in Jill George's current show certainly all strongly evidence a compulsion to work in the medium, and produce an extraordinary variety of effects from the same basic technique.

The prints of Fraser Taylor upstairs are brightly coloured and hover on the brink of abstraction, evoking water, architectural details and shadowy figures with consummate ease and confidence. Downstairs it is more like Artists of Fame and Promise: several of the most striking are still in art school or only just out. The two most distinctive, Victoria Bartlett and Alexandra d'Agnolo, are both interested in the spectral human figure. Bartlett puts her principal character, Pegdoll, in different settings, but all her prints are fantasies in very pale greenish-grey and white, usually looking more like, say, sculptures in poured paper or forgeries than any kind of transfer print. D'Agnolo's prints seem to employ a lot of burning or singeing in their creation: indeed they look most like a species of sophisticated pokerwork applied to infernal (as in Dante) conglomerations of writhing naked bodies. The images of both are hauntingly uncomfortable. Jill George Gallery, 38 Lexington Street, W1 (0171-439 7343) until Aug 16

In "Internal State" Charlotte Gibson, 27, exhibits photographs and paintings together on absolutely equal terms. The sources of inspiration, too, are the same: her ultimate fascination with the 17th-century house in which she grew up is transferred into doll's house terms, all the images deriving from arrangements of objects she has made within the spaces of a particular doll's house. This gives rise to much deliberate ambiguity of scale and perspective. Cuteness is rigorously avoided; indeed, one would probably not know that a doll's house was involved unless told. And the juggling with space is highly sophisticated, producing ghostly out-of-focus photographic prints and darkling, intensely coloured still-lives which raise more questions than they answer. Rocket Gallery, 13 Old Burlington Street, W1 (0171-434 3043) until Oct 12

JOHN RUSSELL
TAYLOR

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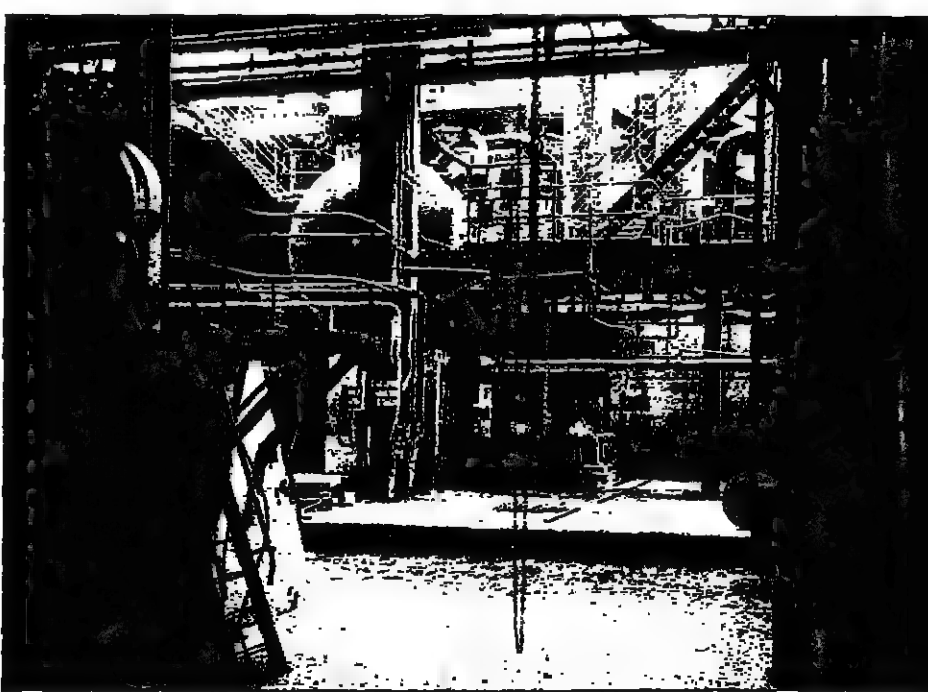
Stark visions from the belly of an industrial dinosaur

Charlotte Mullins on how images of Bankside power station have been assembled for posterity

The disused Bankside power station, due to open as the fourth branch of the Tate Gallery in the year 2000, is currently being stripped of all industrial residue. During 1995, shortly before this removal process began, four artists — Dennis Creffield, Anthony Eyton, Deanna Petherbridge and Thomas Struth — were asked by the Tate Gallery to enter the building and work within the soaring interior, recording the soon-to-be-forgotten details of the monolithic building.

Their findings, coupled with commissioned works by Catherine Yass and Terry Smith, are now on display at the South London Gallery in an exhibition called *Inside Bankside*.

Catherine Yass entered the space this year and reveals, with her signature photographic process, the later stages of decommissioning. Inky blue light saturates the images, reversing daylight to its negative, while the rest of the image retains the clarity and detail of a positive print. With its girdered hall and vertical ribbon-windows, Bankside has been transformed in these images into the post-industrial equivalent of a cathedral, a modern-day foil for St Paul's on the



Inside Bankside power station, as seen by the German photographer Thomas Struth

opposite bank of the Thames.

Unlike the artists originally commissioned, who simply recorded the process of change, Terry Smith chose, as always, to engage directly with the site, working into the walls, with his work being photographed for the exhibition by Richard Glover. By scraping plaster from interior office walls, Smith looked at the private side of the site, exploring the past life of the building through the traces of what had been left behind.

Of the work by artists originally commissioned, Anthony Eyton's lurid oil painting *The Turbine Hall* shows the (by now) standard view of the interior, from the same angle from which it is viewed

by Yass. Unlike Yass's photographs, which touch on the ideology behind the transformation that is underway, Eyton records the site as is, a vibrant high-colour still from a biopic of Bankside, complete with semi-disassembled machinery and the intricate support system — stairs, pipes, chains — that once ran the length of the open structure like metal cobwebs.

Deanna Petherbridge's careful series of six sepia watercolours take much the same line within her own preferred medium, as do the surprisingly beautiful photographs by Thomas Struth, who has turned redundant machine parts into amorphous arrangements for the

camera. Dennis Creffield's vigorous charcoal sketches depict little of the physical site, concentrating on the sense of scale and loftiness, conveyed through strong black scribbles overlaid with stronger lines pointing up, up, up.

As historic documentation the works on show are invaluable, depicting the infrastructure and machinery of the building's industrial past. Yet it is only the works commissioned from Yass and Smith by the South London Gallery with the London Arts Board that reveal much in the way of experimentation, originality and vigour.

● South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, London SE5 (0171-703 6120) until August 18



FILM

After years of all talk and no action, the Government looks ready to lend a hand to the UK film industry



THEATRE 1

In Dublin, an Abbey revival of Brian Friel's *Translations* fails to do justice to his rich text

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 2

Companies from around the world parade their productions at an international festival in Portugal



FROM

Leonard Slatkin conducts an exciting all-American programme with the BBC Symphony at the Albert Hall

Hollywood GB? It could be true

Geoff Brown says the British film industry should not greet any lottery boost too warmly

Imagine the scene. Mystic Meg does her predictions. The coloured balls roll out the winning numbers. A musician in a loincloth, on loan from the Rank Organisation, strikes the gong as the television presenter shrieks the good news: "And £10 million of public money goes to *Rambo* versus *Lawrence of Arabia*, the new film from Stallone-Britannia (UK) Ltd, to be made at Pinewood with a Hollywood cast but the best British technicians and the best British sand."

Is this the future of British film financing? It could be, to judge by the mixed bag of recent news. In the year since the Government announced a scheme to fund films through the National Lottery — Downing Street's first major statement of film policy in ten years — industry observers have been quick to point to anomalies and fuzzy criteria. Then, two weeks ago, Virginia Bottomley, holder of the Government's film purse strings, jetted to Los Angeles with a bomb in her luggage. She dropped it at the Motion Picture Association of America in a speech on July 25.

She wanted to make it easier, she said, for Hollywood companies to establish British offshoots to make their films, as well as co-productions. As part of the process, the Government would re-examine the legal definition of a British film company. With the legal footwork done, therefore, there would seem to be nothing to stop Sylvester Stallone establishing his company, Stallone-Britannia, putting in a funding application, and, if the gods smiled on him, making his testosterone special at Pinewood with lottery loot.

No sooner had this bizarre prospect emerged than another bomb — if one of a more benign nature — exploded. Last Friday, we learnt the broad thrust of the report prepared by the National Heritage Department's advisory committee on film finance, chaired by Peter Middleton. The 16-strong committee had been looking at ways to rejig the current lottery

scheme and stimulate private investment in the film industry. Most unusually, the committee's proposals were in line with several nostrums regularly touted by the industry itself. There should be tax concessions to ease film production costs and encourage foreign artists to work in Britain. (Ireland did this, and saw film investment rise 100 per cent between 1992 and 1994.) Middleton's committee also suggested that the industry move towards the old-style

What one government gives, another government removes

"vertically integrated" companies that combined the functions of a production studio, distributor and exhibitor. That way, any film that emerges from a studio would never need to fight for commercial exposure and the box-office receipts that followed. (The flipside to these monster companies can be put in a single word: monopoly.)

But before our film grandees dance in the streets, notes of caution should be struck. An advisory committee advises, but only government disposes. While we wait for the future to emerge, let us see if history teaches anything about government participation in the British film industry. One thing is clear: it is a risky business. What one government gives, another removes, and no film industry can sustain itself by leaning hard on Whitehall money. No industry, similarly, should put its faith in Hollywood. American film-makers always come to Britain, and they always leave, fuelling a cycle of boom and bust. It happens every decade.

Even if government stays steadfast, its plans only rarely

have the desired effect. Fate plays a trick, or wily film companies take advantage of Whitehall naivety. Take the 1927 Cinematograph Films Act, which proposed to shore up an industry already struggling against American imports. The Act fixed a yearly percentage of British films which cinemas were bound to exhibit, and which producers and distributors had to offer for rental. Sounds good? You just wait.

Companies soon found ways of fulfilling the law's letter, but not its spirit. One American-owned outfit was brought to court for offering *Code of the Air*, a Canadian-made film whose sole British employee was its canine star, Silverstreak.

The legislators' decision to determine an eligible British film by financial, not artistic, criteria encouraged some producers to spend the bare minimum. Thus the "quota quickies" were born: lowly films made in a fortnight that gave some employment to rising talent, but scarcely dignified the industry or supplied ammunition to fight off the Americans.

Another classic instance of intentions backfiring was the epic fight with the Americans over import duty in the post-war years, when Britain suffered a severe dollar shortage. In August 1947, Clement Attlee's Labour Government slapped a 75 per cent ad valorem tax on all incoming American films. America responded by imposing a boycott, denying Britain any new releases. Our cinemas and studios were unprepared to fill the gap. Eight months later, climbdown. The duty was withdrawn, and arrangements made for America's frozen earnings to be partly invested in quasi-British productions, such as MGM's *Knights of the Round Table*, one of many swashbucklers made at Borehamwood. It was a move that only weakened our industry's ability to stand on its own feet.

The pitfalls have continued whenever government gave the industry direct or indirect subsidies. Here again, Attlee's Government was busy. During 1949-50, the newly estab-



lished National Film Finance Corporation financed films as varied as *The Third Man* and *Old Mother Riley* headmistress. Some success here: indeed, the NFRC enjoyed wobbly government support until 1965. But there was little success with a provision to encourage fresh talent through a company called Group 3. Most films were feeble. Producers operating without subsidies resented them, and distributors gave them a very hard ride. The scheme died after five years in 1955.

By this time a sturdier subsidy scheme was in place: the Eady Levy, named after the Treasury official who nursed it into a life that lasted until Margaret Thatcher's axe fell in 1985. Eady proposed

that a percentage of box-office takings be ploughed back into a production fund. The snag was that Eady loot was parcelled out to a producer on a scale to match the producer's own box-office takings: thus the more successful a producer was, the more Eady money he or she received. The Britishness of the films in question became another problem: sometimes Eady beneficiaries were Americans whose films were British only on paper.

Which brings the wheel round to the Government's present film scheme, organised through the National Lottery. Any company resident in Britain can apply for money through the regional arts councils. You must have other financing in place, and the project must "pro-

vide the public good" (hear that, Stallone!). You get good points, too, for employing disabled people. Applications are vetted by several committees of professionals: the arts council concerned then deliberates, and awards the money film by film (usually no more than £1 million).

Some industry complaints about the scheme have been contradictory. One person worries that, without a completion bond, some films may never be made, but they will still have lottery money locked inside them. Another suspects that the insistence that other finance be in place weights the winners towards films that would probably get made anyway, and leaves untalented out in the cold. The strongest complaint, however,

concerns the difficulty of gauging the arts councils' criteria when they make their decisions film by film, and refuse funding without explanation. They don't call it a lottery for nothing.

Still, after so many years of barren words, the spectacle of a Conservative Government lending even a "helped" hand to the British film industry is something to behold. The trouble is, the film industry is not the same thing as British cinema. *Judge Dredd* is not *Secrets & Lies*. The industry — the studios, the workforce — may well find a salvation of sorts in the Hollywood-style bonanzas that fill Pinewood and Shepperton. Truly indigenous British cinema, however, must fight for life more fiercely than ever.

THEATRE: Cartographers divide and rule in Dublin; priapic monks meet star-crossed lovers and shameless bedfellows in Portugal

Map makers lose their way

REVISIONIST views of Brian Friel's *Translations* have tended to paint the play as a brazen piece of anti-colonial propaganda, with the playwright blithely distorting the facts for political impact.

While that view offers something of a balance to the adulation with which the original 1980 Field Day production was received, Friel's frighteningly allusive assessment of the psychic impact of making maps remains a rich and fascinating text.

When a group of British sappers come to Friel's imaginary land of Ballybeg to make a new map of the lands thereabouts, they are greeted with varying degrees of hostility and incomprehension by the locals.

Maire (Ali White) is attracted to the aristocratic glamour of a British officer, and Hugh (Kenneth Haigh), the local classicist, speaks civilly to the interlopers, but off stage all is hostility. A little girl spits at the soldiers, the mysterious Donnelly twins seem to have caused harm to another, while those schooled in ancient history barrack the invaders with classical allusions.

Face to face, the differences of language provide some useful lagging between the soldiers and the peasantry. This linguistic buffer allows the powerfully symbolic act of map-making to fade into the background, its ominous rumblings drowned out in the deafening hum of the thatched cottage of babel.

In the Abbey's current fuzzy production, director Robin Lefevre misses out on most of the excitement Friel finds in the dithering of languages at the colonial market. If anything, the production dimin-

Translations
Abbey, Dublin

ishes Friel's intricate sets of balanced and mirrored characters.

Philip Glenister's carefully insipid and wrongheaded English officer, George, is ill matched by Lloyd Hutchinson's charismatic turncoat, Owen, while Ali White's Maire is equally befuddled by the stammering soldier.

Kenneth Haigh and Derry Power come close to pulling off the unlikely comic double act of the potted-soaked classical scholar and his bumptious pupil, a man presently considering a marriage proposal from the goddess Athena.

Too often, however, characters remain distractingly insubstantial, a fairly elementary fault with this play. Friel offers so much in terms of dramatic intelligence — elaborate ideas, layered illusions, marbled irony and a flashing game of linguistic pinball — that it seems a modest demand that a director balance the verbal energy with a sense that there is something physical at stake here.

Lefevre's production offers little in this direction. Even as the characters tramp about Julian McGowan's stodgy and over-explicit set, there is little sense that linguistic conflict is just one part of a battle that also involves bodies and blood and fields and rivers.

Pace is a constant problem, but even in its moments of greatest agitation, the production remains too flat too much like a map, and too little like a landscape.

LUKE CLANCY

The town of Almada stands across the straits of the River Tagus from Lisbon, sloping up from its shippard to a gigantic statue of Christ the King, arms outstretched, on top of the hill. Lying on the route south to the Algarve, it cannot avoid being something of a dormitory town for Lisbon, but it is also that rarity in Western Europe — and in Eastern Europe, these days — a communist municipality. The red flag comes a poor second on the streets to the red-and-green national flag, but it's there all right, proudly displaying its hammer and sickle as the events of 1989 had never happened.

"This is a very Portuguese communism," people explain, and I am fortunately not required to distill the essence of their explanation because my reason for being here, in temperatures that hit 90 on the cool days, is the Festival Internacional de Teatro, now in its 13th year.

The career of the festival director, Joaquim Benite, began 25 years ago when he founded an amateur group in Lisbon. The amateur sector is still a potent force in Portuguese theatre, but during the Salazar regime it offered one of the few platforms for political and social criticism. Benite's group existed in the inevitable controversies, suffered from censorship but survived until the 1974 Revolution when, in the turmoil of the times, it lost its theatre.

For a while the group performed in clubs until one happy day the municipality of Almada invited its members over the water to present their work in the town's covered market. Eighteen years ago the group, now the Companhia de Teatro de Almada, turned the market building into a proper theatre. Five years later the first out-of-town companies were invited to take part in a small festival.

Nowadays the festival lasts for two weeks, and this year

Acts of the world unite



Razões e Corações: 16th-century humour undiminished

the town was host to visiting companies from Spain, France, Italy, Greece, England, not to mention others from South America, New York, Japan and Mozambique. Performances began late in the evening and two of the venues are in the open air, marvellously warm and mysteriously free of mosquitoes.

Gil Vicente created Portuguese drama virtually single-handed in the early 1500s (he

was born a century before Shakespeare). We know few of his plays over here, and knew even fewer before the Gate introduced us last winter to *The Boat Plays*, his eschatological trilogy in which angel and devil settle the fate of the newly dead.

The sombre tone of *The Boat Plays* had not prepared me for the farcical events of *Razões e Corações* (Reasons and Hearts), two Vicente plays about the troublesome effects of love, presented by the host theatre in a production that frequently turns to schools. It is impossible to imagine that in this country such a production could include a giant phallus as the set, or a monk (or anyone) whose troublesome member goes up and down depending on who is talking to him. The plays were continuously funny.

Lisbon's Teatro Meridional, with a cast of three male actors, performed *Romeo*, a version of *Romeo and Juliet* told exclusively from the point of view of Romeo and a couple of his friends (Benvolio, Mercutio) with occasional interference from two doddering friars.

The main thrust was comic but the characters were isolated, singly or in pairs, in pools of light upon an otherwise totally black stage, stepping into view like figures from a dream.

From Mozambique came a tempestuous tale of multiple infidelity, *A Noite Some Teles Primos* (At Night We Are All Cousins), in which all the discovered lovers attempt to avoid retribution by claiming they are just cousins. Soon everyone is a cousin and I must admit to losing my way almost immediately in the ramifying false families. Performances by the Gungulinhos company from Maputo combined argumentative naturalism with surrealist imagination, notably in the abattoir scenes in which one actor, playing a carcass, is vividly slaughtered.

I am patriotically pleased to report that *Shameless* by our own Opera Circus was received with shouts of approval. Four actor-singers, accompanied by a proud pianist, sang a warning tale to the music of many well-known

arias, writhing in and around an astonishing elastic bed honeycombed with secret entrances.

The humans were great but the bed was out of this world.

Kate Basset, reviewing the company last year, evidently wrote, "Um grande salto em frente para a ópera."

You can't say fairer than that.

JEREMY KINGSTON

JOHN ALLISON

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CHOICE 1

Peter Maxwell Davies conducts his Sixth Symphony with the RPO

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall

CHOICE 2

West End previews begin for Catherine Rabbett in *Dial M for Murder*

VENUE: Tonight at the Apollo Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Tim Flavin stars in the Gershwin musical comedy *Crazy for You*

VENUE: Tonight at the Mayflower, Southampton

MUSIC

Mikhail Pletnev wanted his own orchestra, so he founded one. Now he is bringing it to the Proms

Conductor Mikhail Pletnev tells John Allison about musical life in new Russia

He knows the score

Moscow, well past midnight. The scene is the Great Hall of the Conservatory, one of the most hallowed spaces in the musical world. Mikhail Pletnev and his Russian National Orchestra are recording Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony, completing a cycle of the composer's symphonies soon to be released. Late at night, when concerts have finished and there is little traffic on the rutted roads outside, the hall — with its warm and vibrant acoustics — makes an ideal recording venue. The session will continue until 3am, but nobody in this hard-working orchestra seems to mind: it is a private organisation with no ties to the state, and the energetic enthusiasm of its musicians contrasts starkly with everyday Russian attitudes. Stepping out into the night, I am immediately brought back to reality: floodlit, deserted Moscow gives the impression of a fairy tale gone horribly wrong.

In a country where apathy has spread even to concert audiences, attending a Russian National Orchestra performance is like going back into the past. Queues for tickets and full houses are regular occurrences, and the audiences — always including more children than in the West — listen intently, taking in every note. There is no need for Pletnev, an aristocratic, reserved conductor, to play to the gallery. Except that surprisingly few children attend the Proms, conditions ought to be familiar to him this week when he brings his orchestra to the Albert Hall.

Even with a powerful board of directors and major American sponsorship, the orchestra, which Pletnev founded in 1990, is very much his. But does Russia need another orchestra? "I didn't ask myself if there was this need. It was 'my' orchestra. If you are going to become a pianist you don't worry about whether the country needs another pianist, you just play the piano."

Most of Pletnev's views have this dispassionate clarity (he is not a man of unnecessary words), but here he elaborates: "Of course I had worked, and still work, with other orchestras, but it's not the same. You have to divide conductors into those who work as guests and those who have their own orchestras. With your own, you are dealing with the same personalities, building up a sound, thinking about a strategy — that's what's difficult. It requires experience of life. But once you get there you can really show what you feel about music."

Until perestroika opened up opportunities, such a venture would have been impossible even for Pletnev, already famous at home and abroad as a pianist in the great Russian tradition. All the orchestras were state-owned, their conductors were nominated by the government, and Pletnev was not a member of the Communist Party. But through the collapse of the Soviet Union made things possible. Pletnev is now competing in a very tough world, with formerly state-sponsored orchestras fighting for survival. But "not a single one has closed down. In fact, they've multiplied like mushrooms. I have no idea what keeps them going, although touring helps. Most of them are boring, they exist in a country that has no brains. Such a rich country could have had a good economy, but



Mikhail Pletnev and his Russian National Orchestra will perform two concerts at the Proms this week

instead of its poverty, constant struggle, constant stupidity. It's ruled by rude force, not sophisticated ideas."

In spite of its title, the Russian National Orchestra plays mostly in Moscow. Next month it will visit the cities of the Volga, travelling by boat, but by and large, touring in Russia has become unviable. Most cities cannot afford to host the orchestra, the cost of accommodation has spiralled, and air fares have become too expensive. But it is "national" in the sense that it boasts some of the best players in Russia. A large proportion have been members since the start, many poached by Pletnev from the front desks of other orchestras.

With such players, it is not surprising that the orchestral sound has a special refinement, while remaining unmistakably Russian. The tone of a Russian orchestra comes from its strings. "The strings are always very full, very powerful — ideal for Russian music — and, if conducted the right way they can be good in anything, especially Beethoven. I don't care about traditions, but since I'm Russian I will

probably make an orchestra sound Russian. I can learn from any conductor, even the worst ones — it's sometimes more important to know how not to do bad things. But my greatest idol is Rachmaninov: he was a genius, equal to Mozart. Some people might not agree, but I don't care."

Not yet 40, Pletnev is in demand around the world. He recently signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon, and on disc he has shown himself to be equally at home in a wide range of piano and orchestral repertoire. (Unlike many of his compatriots, he is not sought mainly for his interpretations of Russian music — his playing of Scarlatti sonatas, for example, is unrivalled.) He also devotes time to composition, and in a thinly veiled attack on some of his colleagues says: "If you cannot compose, as a performer you can only become a great man but not a great musician. All great composers were performers, all great performers were composers: it's one thing. It doesn't matter how much they composed, if the pieces were published, or even if they

weren't very good. What's important is that performers know the composition process. Performance is about recreating music; you have to feel you are the composer."

For a composer, Pletnev shows an unexpected lack of empathy with contemporary music. "Russian people are very sentimental, emotional and nostalgic, and modern works don't often touch these feelings. Interesting ideas are all very well, but they're too cool and objective to feed the Russian soul." This week's programmes mix Mozart and Haydn with 20th-century Russian music — Lyadov, Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Schnittke — but even about Schnittke, Pletnev is unenthusiastic. Unlike others, he does not see him as the inheritor of Shostakovich's mantle. "He's written some good pieces, but they're not very attractive to me. Shostakovich's music has a very intense inner power, Schnittke's has theatrical power and effects, but no inner continuity. Schnittke writes pastiche. Shostakovich and Prokofiev wrote their own music. I think they were the last great Russian composers. Maybe I'm wrong — I'd love to be wrong."

Mikhail Pletnev conducts the Russian National Orchestra at the Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 0RT (0171-589 8212) on Thursday and Friday

"I can learn from any conductor, even the worst ones"

LONDON

BSC PROMS 96. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the London premiere of his Sixth Symphony. The orchestra's repertoire includes Nielsen's *Heller* Overture, plus Liszt's *Les Preludes* and the Violin Concerto by Sibelius played by Tamas Lantos who delighted the audience at the 1995 Last Night. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 0RT (0171-589 8212) Tonight, 7.30pm.

DIAL M FOR MURDER. Catherine Rabbett stars in the West End premiere of the new musical. The play is set in the days before the all-night phone number. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Aug 13, 8pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm.

FURRY CHORES THE MERSEY. Garry and the Pacemakers, singing the story of a boy, Garry and the Pacemakers, who had their first No. 1 one month before the Beatles. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Aug 12, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until September 7.

SEVEN HOURS. Hattie Watson in the role of Elizabeth's Hilda Gaskell. The

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Masey

The cast includes David Thewlis, Roy Marsden and Nicholas Le Prevost. Lindy Davies directs.

Musica Studio, Chiswick Park (01753 781 312). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.45pm. Until August 17.

EDINBURGH. Tamas Lantos presents the first of two productions on his new play *Les Preludes*. The play is set in the days before the all-night phone number. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Aug 13, 8pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm.

HAVERGATE. An outstanding evening of dance in the company of Peter Schuster and Friends. Featuring extracts from Sir Frederick Ashton's production of *Romeo and Juliet* and scenes from Schuster's new full-length ballet, *Havergate*, making its British premiere. Choreography by the celebrated 19th-century Dance August

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

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Seats at all prices

THE ODD COUPLE. Jack Klugman and Tony Randall in an engaging revival of Neil Simon's comedy.

THE PHOENIX WOMEN. Kasey Michael's production of the play by Caryl Churchill, set in the 1950s. The play is about the lives of three women in the 1950s. The play is about the lives of three women in the 1950s.

THE RED BALLOON. Anthony Clark's play about the lives of three women in the 1950s. The play is about the lives of three women in the 1950s.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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SUNDAY

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Gary Slapper questions whether the provisions for child criminals do them justice

A law unto themselves?

Hostilities flared last week when the Court of Appeal ruled that the Home Secretary was wrong to have increased the sentence tariffs of the child killers of James Bulger.

The mother of James said that the latest decision was "disappointing". The judgment of Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, emphasised that the proper punishment in any case should not be influenced by campaigns outside the legal process.

Jon Venables and Robert Thompson were sentenced in November 1993 to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure with a recommended tariff of eight years, a sentence that was increased to ten years by the Lord Chief Justice, and then to 15 years by Michael Howard. The Home Secretary appeared to have been influenced by a newspaper campaign (with large-scale public support) to raise the prison sentence, and the Court of Appeal stated that that could amount to "an interference with the administration of justice".

Children are treated in a very different way from adults in most aspects of life. Yet the way young children can be treated by the criminal justice system is, for many, highly inappropriate. A light that could be used in the darkness of some terrible event to shine on and incriminate parents, or a wider social failure, is shown instead on a deeply disturbed or pathological child as the focus of all evil.

Recently several harrowing cases have raised the issue of how society and the legal system should respond to children who commit crimes. In June a 14-year-old boy from Coventry was jailed for 20 years for a vicious hammer attack on a woman who had made sexual advances towards him.

In the same month an 11-year-old boy was found guilty of killing a pensioner by toppling a concrete slab from a height of 12 storeys onto her head was sent home under a three-year supervision order. He was said by witnesses to have roared with laughter when told by friends that someone had been hit.

A growing moral panic has been heightened by other developments. Last December the London headmaster Philip Lawrence was knifed to death outside his school after approaching a group of young people. In June a gang of youths walked into another nearby school and attacked pupils preparing to sit a GCSE exam with bottles and knives. In July a 13-year-old boy was charged with the murder of



The innocent at play: children under ten in England and Wales are regarded as incapable of committing serious wrong

Jade Matthews, the nine-year-old girl found battered to death in Bootle, Merseyside, and the Shadow Home Secretary has advocated an after-dinner curfew for all young children.

The minimum age of criminal responsibility is a quite arbitrary matter which most physicians, psychologists and anthropologists will readily admit has no basis in anything scientific. In the 17th century, the age of presumptive criminal responsibility was arbitrarily set by Sir Edward Coke at 14. A child below that age accused of a crime could nevertheless be convicted if the prosecution could show with strong evidence that the child in fact had "mischievous discretion".

Until 1933 children as young as seven could be convicted of crimes if they were shown to have such discretion. The minimum age was raised by legislation to eight in 1933, and then to ten years in 1963. In Scotland, by contrast, normal criminal responsibility attaches to a child at the age of eight.

Today, therefore, a child under ten in England and Wales is regarded as *doli incapax* (incapable of committing serious wrong). A case can proceed against someone aged between ten and 14 provided

that the prosecution can prove that the child knew that what he was doing was seriously wrong. Such proof must come from evidence other than that for the act in question.

In 1994 an adventurous Divisional Court dismissed the appeal of a Merseyside boy who had been 12 years old when convicted of the attempted theft of a motorcycle. The defence argued that the prosecution had failed to prove, in accordance with the *doli*

range of non-custodial disposals and treatments, it is argued, there is no need for the rule. Professor Glanville Williams has argued that the "knowledge of wrong" test stands in the way of not punishment but of educational treatment. "It saves the child not from prison, transportation, or the gallows, but from the probation officer, the foster parent, or the approved school."

The paradoxical result is, he says, that "the more warped the child's moral standards, the safer he is from the correctional treatment of the criminal law".

Last year the House of Lords reinstated the rule as part of English law, arguing that as the rule was such a vexed social and political issue, it was properly a matter to be altered only by Parliament.

Any debate on legislation to change the law on this point will have several highly fraught questions to deal with. Should children who have done serious wrongs have to expiate their crimes by suffering? If the rule is abolished and the flow of child criminals to probation officers and care institutions is increased, will this lead to a drop in crime?

Child crime should be put in its proper context, so that new law and policy is not created in

The way young children can be treated by the law is, for many, highly inappropriate

Incapax rule, that the child knew that what he was doing was seriously wrong.

Mr Justice Mann said that the rule should no longer be part of the law because the prosecution was required to prove moral responsibility although it was moral irresponsibility that led to the crime. The rule arose to save children from being hanged and other severe punishments in an age when there was a very uneven delivery of education and socialisation.

Now that there is universal compulsory education, and a

range of non-custodial disposals and treatments, it is argued, there is no need for the rule. Professor Glanville Williams has argued that the "knowledge of wrong" test stands in the way of not punishment but of educational treatment. "It saves the child not from prison, transportation, or the gallows, but from the probation officer, the foster parent, or the approved school."

The paradoxical result is, he says, that "the more warped the child's moral standards, the safer he is from the correctional treatment of the criminal law".

Last year the House of Lords reinstated the rule as part of English law, arguing that as the rule was such a vexed social and political issue, it was properly a matter to be altered only by Parliament.

Any debate on legislation to change the law on this point will have several highly fraught questions to deal with. Should children who have done serious wrongs have to expiate their crimes by suffering? If the rule is abolished and the flow of child criminals to probation officers and care institutions is increased, will this lead to a drop in crime?

Child crime should be put in its proper context, so that new law and policy is not created in

Association. Telephone 0171-281 0439 for details.

Rogues barred

THE Bar Council has plugged a gap in rules which left it powerless to take action recently against a barrister involved in "disreputable" behaviour before being called to the Bar. The case revealed a lacuna in the Bar's regulations. Until now applicants for call have had to confirm that they have not been convicted of a criminal offence or have criminal proceedings pending against them. But the declaration did not cover conduct which the authorities were yet to discover or "disreputable" behaviour.

Bleak future

CAN Norton Rose see into the future? The City law firm has just recruited the leading insolvency lawyer Hamish Anderson from Bond Pearce, of Bristol. Roger Birkby, managing partner, says: "The addition of another highly regarded expert in this field at this stage in the economic cycle will prepare us very well for the next upturn in the insolvency market." One man's upturn is another man's recession.

SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

Legal golfer struck lucky

THE QUEEN'S guests may have been rushed to hospital recently after being struck by lightning, but Denis Reed, director of legal personnel at the London firm Stephenson Harwood, is made of sterner stuff. He was struck while playing golf at Stonyhill Golf Club in Essex. "Someone said they could see sparks flying from the top of my umbrella. A very powerful shock passed down my left side."

But far from going to hospital he went on to score par at the next four holes. "My colleagues all want to touch the corner of my jacket as I pass," he jokes.

Red, not flush

ROBERT SAYER, the self-confident former Law Society vice-president, has confessed that he used to be something of a shrinking violet when it came to discussing fees with his clients. Mr Sayer, who is to be the society's deputy treasurer, advises readers of *Legal Abacus*, the journal of the Institute of Legal Cashiers and Administrators, that they would do solicitors a favour by taking over billing. "It



Sir Andrew: superstar

relieves them of something which many of them find embarrassing," he writes. "It is this embarrassment which prevents solicitors from being willing to discuss their fees with clients in advance. I used to share it. It is a mistake."

Show starters

FEW first-nighters at the Lyceum Theatre in the West End of London in November will appreciate the behind-the-scenes legal dealing that has gone into raising the curtain again after 57 years. Edge & Ellison

OUTS

negotiated with a consortium of 47 banks in helping Apollo Leisure to buy the Lyceum lease from Brent Walker. Then came complex negotiations for Apollo with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Theatre Company to bring the multi-millionaire showman's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* to reopen the theatre. More deals are in the pipeline, says Edge & Ellison.

Inn and out

OPENING night last week for *The Taming of the Shrew* at Lincoln's Inn was a sell-out — and the Inn afterwards held a barbecue. The open-air production by AANDBC Theatre Company was forced by rain into The Old Hall but by the second half they were back outside. The play runs for a month. For ticket details telephone 0171-403 6713.

Molière's *The Misanthrope* is being staged by Rumpole Theatre Productions in the garden of Middle Temple, August 7-10. The production is sponsored by the Middle Temple treasury and all profits will go to the Barristers Benevolent

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



A salutary lesson in palm tree justice

To hear a supendary magistrate calling for the appointment of lay justices sounds unlikely to say the least. It couldn't happen here, could it? No — you are right. It wasn't in this country where I heard such a revolutionary suggestion but on a small island in the Indian Ocean around 6,000 miles from the UK.

Mauritius has been described as a tropical paradise, with its miles of white sandy beaches and coral-fringed lagoons. It also consists, however, of an conglomeration of races speaking more than 20 languages between them. The Indians, Africans, Chinese and Europeans who make up this polyglot community of some 1.2 million people live together in remarkable amity and acceptance — bolstered by a rule of law which stems from its old colonial occupiers, France and Britain.

It is an extraordinarily friendly place which has a lot to teach outsiders if they have the wit to learn. Imagine a society where going to see the magistrate may be a solution in itself. Imagine a society where the magistrate sets aside the first hour of court time to enable petitioners to come and talk about their problems. These can range from matrimonial upsets to arguments between neighbours — from complaints about the police to anxieties about recalcitrant children.

These are not people who have started legal proceedings. They are petitioners hoping for advice and help which they hope will be sensible and constructive. And what's more, they don't have to pay for it.

The magistrate, in effect, behaves like a cross between the Citizens Advice Bureau and a district commissioner. As one magistrate put it: "I have been described as a grand sheriff. There are ten such 'sheriffs' working in the district courts of Mauritius, the equivalent of our magistrates' courts. I was amazed not only at the speed of the proceedings but at the kindly common sense of the senior district magistrate himself."

Trained at the English Bar, he was both an excellent lawyer and a person who understood the problems of the people appearing before him. To one mother who asked him to take her daughter away because she was impossible to cope with, he replied that with five children himself he hadn't got room at home.

He would look into the problem. He arranged for a report to be produced from the probation service, which operates like our social services. As a result the girl was sent to the probation home for girls for a year. It may sound excessive, but it worked: both mother and daughter were satisfied.

The law in Mauritius is an amalgam of French and English law. As far as evidence and procedure are concerned it is based on

English law while the substantive law is French. English Common Law fills any gaps and the Mauritian statutes are based on the English ones. In such a polyglot society it seems to work extremely well.

Nonetheless, the duties of the magistrates seem far more onerous than in this country. They deal with a mixture of civil and criminal cases, judicial inquiries and sometimes wear a coroner's hat as well. The people appearing before them will usually speak creole — a kind of pidgin French. Yet the magistrates have to write everything down in English, translating as they go along.

After hearing a mixture of cases we adjourned to the magistrate's chambers for the juvenile hearings, which are held in camera. There are no specially trained juvenile justices: the district magistrate hears all the cases. In a case where a boy had admitted stealing his stepmother's video recorder in order to hire it out to friends, the magistrate commended his entrepreneurial attitude, but told him that since it wasn't his to hire out he would have to pay a fine of 100 rupees — about £4. "If the stepmother had come to court to give the boy support I might have considered an absolute discharge," he said. This commonsense approach and dislike of punitive sentencing is the prevailing attitude on the island.

Capital punishment was abolished only last year and, although sentences can be lengthy — particularly for drug traffickers — possession of a small amount of a drug can carry a conditional discharge. However, it can become a real threat if the person fails to be of good behaviour. In one case a man said that he would rather go to jail than give a surety and report to the police three times a day. "I wanted him to stay and support his family," said the magistrate. "I know that sentencing a person sentences all those around him. It is far more important for a magistrate to be a person who understands what life is about than a lawyer who merely knows the law."

He of course is the magistrate who would like to see lay justices introduced to Mauritius. "They are usually older than the stipendiaries and have more tolerance with their greater experience of life. Such a system would be very good for us."

Nonetheless, the mixture of common sense and non-punitive attitudes in the courts has not resulted in a rise in crime. Crimes in the 11 to 17 age group dropped by well over a third between 1985 and 1994. The decline in reported offences among juveniles between 1981 and 1991 also went hand-in-hand with a decline in the use of custody.

Paula Davies is an Inner London magistrate.



PAULA DAVIES

SOUTH

CORPORATE RECOMMENDATION

Pre-emptive multi-media practice under specialises in the telecom sector to work alongside recognised experts. Experience in the cable and satellite sectors would be particularly helpful as the firm seeks to lay one step ahead of a client base that is half at the cutting edge of media convergence. Position will take a flexible and enthusiastic practice developer with strong leadership abilities. Excellent remuneration package. (Ref:2340)

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CORPORATE RECOMMENDATION

Highly motivated, multi-media practice under specialises in the telecom sector to work alongside recognised experts. Experience in the cable and satellite sectors would be particularly helpful as the firm seeks to lay one step ahead of a client base that is half at the cutting edge of media convergence. Position will take a flexible and enthusiastic practice developer with strong leadership abilities. Excellent remuneration package. (Ref:2349)

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ASSOCIATES IN ADVERTISING

New proposals to streamline civil justice may actually increase costs, Michael Zander believes

Woolf report in sheep's clothing

Lord Woolf's far-reaching plans for reform of the civil justice system have been widely welcomed — acclaimed would be more apt. Approval has come not only from the media, from consumer organisations and the Lord Chancellor, but also from the legal profession, whose members will suffer financially from some of the recommendations. (One has heard the sound of teeth being gritted.)

To come forward with serious reservations about Lord Woolf's plans is therefore foolhardy. Woolf, after all, represents current political correctness. Nobody was ever especially glad to hear from Cassandra: obviously, one will be ignored. Woolf is doomed to be implemented.

How could one be against the notion that a revolution is needed to bring down the cost, length and complexity of legal proceedings? Is it not churlish to deny Lord Woolf's seemingly admirable plans for the court to act as case-load manager, chivvying the parties to resolve their disputes cheaply and quickly?

One concern that has been widely voiced is that the reforms to work substantial additional resources in the form, for instance, of extra judges and computer systems will be needed. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to wrest new resources from the Treasury on a sufficient scale to make the reforms viable. Even if the resources needed are forthcoming, I believe that the Woolf package will create more problems than it solves.

The main innovations concern so-called fast-track cases (£3,000 to £10,000) and multi-track cases (more than £10,000). For fast-track cases the objective is to reduce costs by having a streamlined procedure including an abbreviated trial, normally restricted to three hours, within 20 to 30 weeks.

Although the proposed streamlined procedure is designed to reduce costs, it will load new costs on all fast-track cases in which a defence is issued. The overwhelming majority of these cases would be settled anyway, so the new procedure will add to, rather than subtract from costs. Lord Woolf

says that the cases that will be settled will progress more quickly and cheaply, but there is no evidence for this and I do not believe his view to be correct.

In cases in which the parties go to court the abbreviated trial and the (probably too low) ceiling on fees payable to lawyers will reduce the quality of justice for the litigant, and especially for individual litigants against the big battalions, such as corporations.

Lord Woolf wants his reforms to create a more level playing field between litigants. But the effect of this reform will be to deny individual litigants in proceedings against, say, insurance companies the benefit of the full range of lawyers' work to establish liability, and its extent. The claimant normally wins and the other side then pays his costs. If the insurance company can only be made to pay a fixed and fairly low fee for the winner's costs, the lawyer may not be able to recover from the insurance company what

needs to be spent on the case. That means either that the work will not be done or that it will be done and the client will have to pay for it out of his damages. Either way justice will not have been served.

For most individual litigants, it seems that the feeling that they have had a fair hearing is even more important than reducing delay and cost. Many litigants will feel that the short, sharp trial, usually limited to half a day, with restricted oral evidence, does not allow justice to be done or to be seen to be done.

In multi-track cases, the main concern is that the new system of Woolf-style court management will too often have exactly the opposite effect to that intended. It is designed to reduce costs and to knock the case into shape for the trial, if there is one. In cases that would have been settled early anyway, the extra costs for both the system and the litigant incurred through case management will be wasted.

For cases that go to trial, empirical studies suggest that court management tends to result in cases being more complex and taking longer.

THE REFORMS AT A GLANCE

- Lord Woolf made the following recommendations on civil law:
- Litigation divided into fast-track cases (£3,000 to £10,000) and multi-track cases (more than £10,000).
- Fast-track cases will be subject to a streamlined procedure including an abbreviated trial, normally restricted to three hours, within 20 to 30 weeks.
- Sanctions to be imposed by judges in cases where lawyers fail to meet strict deadlines.
- Lawyers must make a precise pleading in a statement of case.
- Judges given discretionary powers to allocate the burden of costs at the end of the case by reference to the conduct of the parties.

It is difficult to share the belief that the judges will take to the required culture change — for instance by applying the firm sanctions that Woolf envisages for non-compliance with the new rigid timetabling required by court management. If the judges did impose severe sanctions for the inevitable failures by the lawyers to comply with deadlines, it will usually be the litigants rather than the lawyers who will be penalised.

The Woolf report is equally implausible in its insistence that lawyers should be precise in their pleadings (to be known as statements of case). Effective monitoring of this would call for immense court resources completely out of proportion to the value of the exercise.

The call for a new ethos of co-operation between litigation lawyers in the way they conduct litigation is another recommendation that seems as likely to succeed as spitting in the wind.

Most problematic of all are the



Lord Woolf: his plans have been praised, but will they work?

immense and unprecedented new discretionary powers to be given at every point to the judges — for instance to allocate the burden of costs at the end of the case, by reference to the conduct of the parties. The more discretion the judges wield, the greater the scope for inconsistency toward litigants.

Lord Woolf says that court management should be effective and consistent. It is predictable that instead it will be ineffective and inconsistent. The absurdity is that while "everyone knows" that the system is in crisis and that "something must be done about it" there is no proper empirical evidence to document the nature or extent of the problems. Woolf-style reforms have been tried in the United States but again there is no empirical evidence that they are an improvement.

Lord Woolf has called for proper monitoring of the implementation of his reforms but the Lord Chancellor's Department has a deplorable record of introducing reforms and then neglecting to monitor the results. One certainly cannot be confident that proper research will be done.

The Woolf reforms will not work without a significant culture change from those who operate the system at the grassroots level, especially from ordinary solicitors, district and circuit judges — and their clerks. Given even the most favourable circumstances, achieving such a culture change poses almost insuperable problems.

The Walls of Jericho fell down at Joshua's trumpet, but Joshua's achievement looks simple by comparison with what Lord Woolf is expecting.

● The author is Professor of Law at the London School of Economics

Why the Yanks are coming over here

London law firms are chasing after top American lawyers, says Catrin Griffiths

American law firms are not the only poachers in town. Proof that the traffic between Wall Street and the City is not one way came last week when, after a long period of hesitation, Freshfields finally netted a big-name American partner: Tom Joyce, former head of Shearman & Sterling's London office.

Mr Joyce, aged 56, a senior figure with a strong record in European privatisation work, will join Freshfields on September 1. Freshfields also appointed Kent Rowley, Perkins Cole project finance partner, as its first American partner in London, in early July.

One reason Freshfields has decided to hire Americans is that it is probably the least active of its immediate competitors in global equity offerings, which usually involve sales of securities into the United States.

Mr Joyce says: "I'll be working to create a dual capability within the capital raising area, so that if there's a US law element we can advise." Similarly, projects are financed under either US or UK law, so the addition of Mr Rowley allows Freshfields to offer its clients one-stop shopping in two key areas.

Anthony Salz, Freshfields' senior partner, says: "We used to try to do pitches for jobs working with a variety of US firms and seek to market an integrated team, but at the end of the day, clients just seemed to prefer to go to one firm."

Freshfields' decisive act comes not a moment too soon. Despite its international aspirations, it has lagged behind its closest rivals in hiring US lawyers. In London, Allen & Overy already boasts nine US lawyers; Linklaters & Paines has four US lawyers and eight trainees; and Clifford Chance four US lawyers, rising to eight at the end of the year. Mr Salz says: "Philosophically, I'm rather against lateral hires, but we needed to be able to respond."

Maurice Allen, who left Clifford Chance a year ago to set up the

London office of the US firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges, and is an evangelist for the American cause, says: "This is all part of a continuing trend on the part of UK firms to concentrate their efforts on building up a US practice by having US lawyers in London, and not in the States. They can only genuinely compete with US firms through geographical convenience."

Cheque books aloft, the US firms have made the running up until now — hardly surprising given the greater profitability of the Wall Street firms. Even with Mr Joyce coming in at the top of the equity ladder at Freshfields — this year he was paid £420,000, according to the forthcoming *Legal Business 100* — most US partners thinking of joining a UK firm will have to contemplate a pay cut.

Intriguingly, Mr Joyce also had discussions with Clifford Chance. But Freshfields, at the beginning of its US recruitment cycle, needed a frontman-cum-figurehead in a way that Clifford Chance did not. "It's good for Freshfields, and good for the market," says Michael Bray, Clifford Chance finance



Tom Joyce: poached

head. Will this put a stop to the persistent speculation that Freshfields will be the first major City practice to merge with a Wall Street firm? If it is building a home-grown American practice, why should it suffer the pain of a fully fledged merger?

A number of Freshfields partners — particularly the younger ones — argue that a transatlantic merger is almost inevitable in the medium term. Significantly, a Freshfields briefing note makes it clear that the firm is not going to practise American law in the US.

"We would not wish to preclude our ability to merge at a later stage if we think we need to do it," says Mr Salz, who has good relations with a number of US firms, such as Davis Polk & Wardell and Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. The door is still ajar.

● The author is editor of *Legal Business*

JOBS

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Law recruitment agencies are now springing up. Edward Fennell lists the qualities they must have to serve candidates and clients

The top end of the commercial legal market is enjoying a boom reminiscent of the late 1990s, and many of the best firms are now faced by staff shortages.

To plug the gap, legal recruitment consultancies and agencies have proliferated during the last year. It is reckoned that there are now about 60 organisations active in the UK market. One of the largest City law firms says that it is approached by a new agency "at least once a month".

The survival of many of these new consultancies will be a test of quality. They may be able to come up with plenty of candidates and spray CVs around the City, but can they secure placements?

The chief problem facing all consultants is the mismatch between lawyers seeking new opportunities and vacancies available. Law firms are increasingly precise about whom they want to take on, especially at the higher levels, and would prefer not to recruit at all rather than have someone who does not fit their requirements.

The key challenge, therefore, lies in attracting the right candidates. In this respect the "brand name" is crucial. Firms such as Reuter Simpkin and Reynell which have been around the law business in one form or another for many years are at an advantage over "start-ups". It is also necessary

How to capture a top legal eagle

to have strong financial resources to secure and maintain a high profile. Reynell, for example, is now part of the Austin Knight group and has the muscle to build a presence on the advertising pages of magazines and newspapers.

To make any impact on this market, new agencies must be able to offer something fresh and focused. Nick Lloyd, of Hogarth Davies & Lloyd, specialises in recruiting lawyers, ideally with good banking experience in City firms, for financial institutions. He acknowledges that the mainstream recruitment field is saturated and he is not interested in adding to the oversupply.

He says: "What we can offer is a detailed knowledge of the banking field, because we've worked in it ourselves and understand its products. Consequently we can talk knowledgeably to candidates about their experience and relate it to the vacancies we have. It is unlikely that someone without an in-depth, first-hand knowledge of banking would be able to do that."

Such specialist insight can make all the difference between success and failure for agency and candidates alike. Kellyfield Consulting was set up last year and focuses entirely on the top City practices. Its founders, Hugh Kelly and Mark Field, have experience with Freshfields and Ashurst Morris Crisp, and consider that they have a better understanding than most of what makes a big law firm tick and the qualities they seek from recruits.

Mark Field says: "We don't distribute vast numbers of CVs. We are very selective and only submit those who really match the clients' needs. We also include careers guidance as part of our service. When we see a candidate, we will probe what they want to do and put them forward for jobs which meet their long-term aspirations as well as short-term requirements."

Kellyfield's strategy is probably a good one. Law firms need human talent in the same

ways as jewellers need diamonds. For a good "fit", the person, the vacancy, the firm and the prospects all need to be right. The law business's sole asset is the people who work for it. The employment is critical to the success of both individual firms and to the sector as a whole.

That is why high-quality recruitment consultancies are essential. They are needed to oil the wheels of the industry to enable it to adjust smoothly to the changing demands of the legal market.

In doing this, the acknowledged market leaders are Quarry Dougall and ZMB. Both have established their credibility by showing that they really know what law firms want from candidates. Moreover, as the personnel and strategic needs of their clients have changed, so they have progressively offered a wider range of services.

These stretch from the recruitment of teams and non-legal professionals through to organising short-term contract placements and providing outplacement services. They also

now extend to offering advice on mergers and human resource development, including the "retooling" of able lawyers whose specialism may have disappeared.

Looking ahead, Gareth Quarry of Quarry Dougall reckons that the legal industry is on the verge of yet another reshaping. The expansion of the big US law firms in London, the ambitions of the accountants in the legal field and the probability of multidisciplinary firms will lead to another legal revolution.

Lawyers will need help in addressing these massive changes, and personnel consultancies in particular will be required to advise on the human resource dimension. For those who can rise to the challenge, the prospects will be excellent. For those who cannot, it may be curtains.

Candidates should select agencies which can provide quality of advice and counselling, depth of knowledge of law firms in the field in which they are interested and legally qualified staff (ideally with a personnel qualification as well).

Firms should select agencies which can offer integrity and quality of procedures, an understanding of their exact requirements and also a membership of the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services.



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JP 12/15/96

BOWLS

Scotland go down in both triples and pairs

By Gordon Allan

SCOTLAND were involved in two key matches in the qualifying rounds of the eighth women's world championships at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday and lost them both. Jersey, their closest rivals, beat Julie Forrest and Joyce Lindores 19-14 in the pairs and South Africa beat Margaret Letham, Betty Forsyth and Sarah Gourlay 23-12 in the triples.

All this left Jersey two points clear of the Scots at the top of their pairs group, while South Africa, England and Scotland share the leadership in their triples section.

The South African triple, having lost their unbeaten record to Fiji in the morning, were always in control against the Scots, the defending champions. In the pairs, Scotland

from the Pacific islands and the Far East, in contrast to the traditional formality of the regulation skirt and top stipulated by the English Women's Bowling Association (EWBA). The odd player has even been seen having a quick smoke on the bank between ends.

These bowlers from the distant outposts of the game bring not only a different appearance but also a different approach — the exuberance of the southern hemisphere as against the comparative restraint of the northern. The names of Carmen Anderson, of Norfolk Island, and Willow Fong, late of Fiji now of Australia, may not have meant a great deal to the British bowling public last week, but they will by the time the championships end, on August 18.

The five greens in Victoria Park look in excellent condition, thanks partly to the fine weather but more particularly to Veronica Tabor, a former telephonist who is now the head greenkeeper and one of the few women to hold such a post. She has been working at the Leamington complex for 20 years, in charge for the past eight. She joined Warwick District Council as a trainee and, after a three-year course, came out as second top graduate in England. She was the only girl among 30 boys on the course and says that this made her determined to succeed.

A fifth green was laid three years ago and a disease problem developed on it, but Tabor says this has been controlled. The council has spent £1.2 million to bring the arena up to world championship standard and a further £500,000 was raised by the EWBA organising committee.

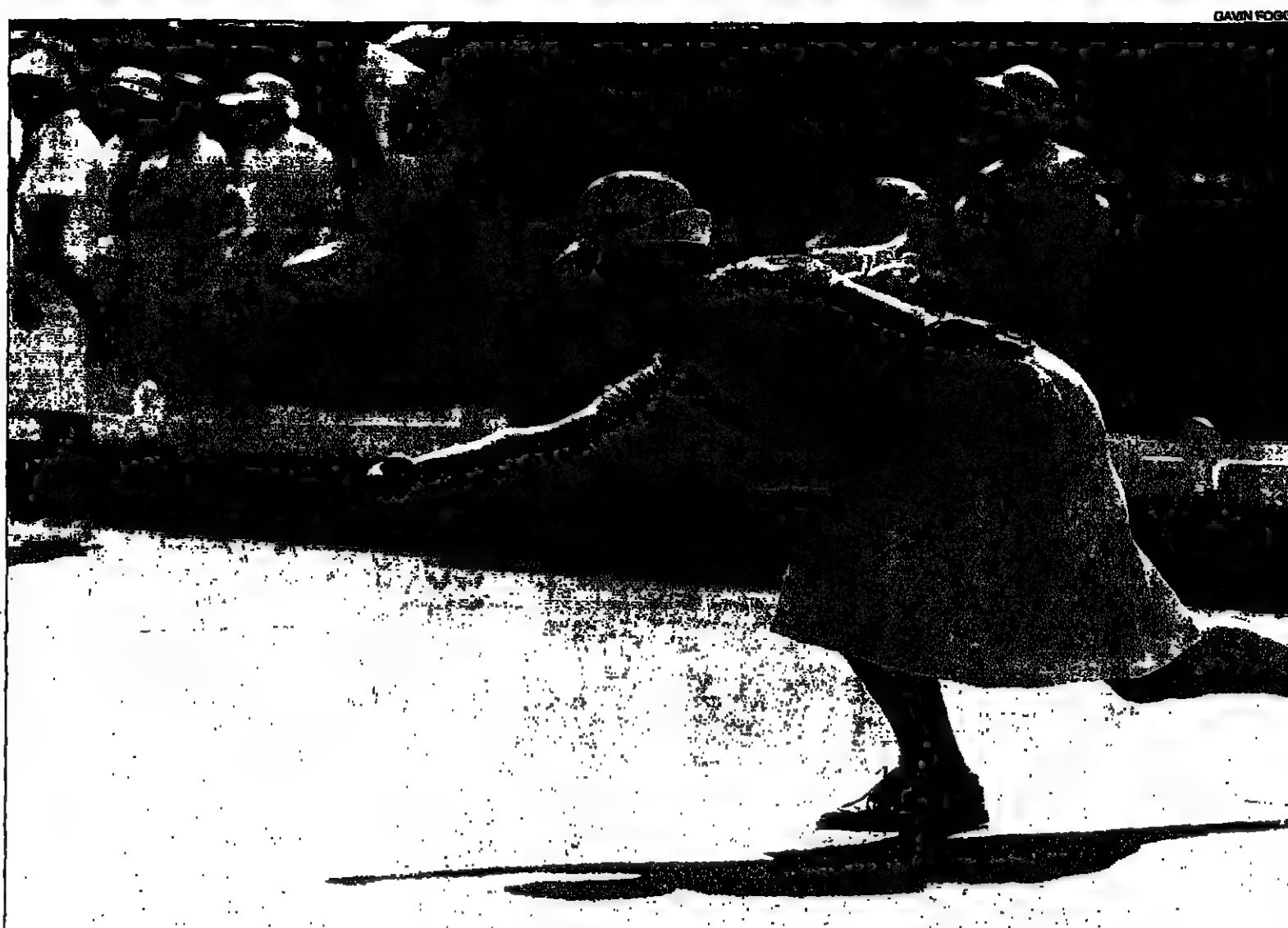
Results 39

led most of the way before dropping five shots on the eighteenth end to fall 15-13 behind.

England lie joint fourth in their pairs group after a remarkable win over India. Gill Fitzgerald and Norma Shaw, down 16-6 and 21-15, edged home 22-21.

On the penultimate end, England scored six shots to tie the scores on 21-21 after a dispute over an Indian bowl which had touched the jack and gone in the ditch without being chalked.

Thirty-one countries are taking part this year, five more than at the last championships at Ayr in 1992, and there are almost as many varieties of dress on show. Trousers, shorts and socks are common among the players



Norma Shaw, of England, recovered from sickness to help England beat Guernsey 18-14 in the pairs at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday

ROWING: HIGH HOPES OF SUCCESS AS STRATHCLYDE PREPARES TO HOST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Britain's best back in the chase for medals

By Mike Rosewell
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

LENNIE ROBERTSON, coach to the British lightweight men's eight who will start their medal quest at the world championships today, is confident of his crew's readiness. "They are all up for it," he said. The same could be said for the other 20 British boats at Strathclyde, all settled and injury-free.

The British eight, silver medal-winners behind Denmark in 1995, beat the Danes at Amsterdam this season but, for Robertson, the 1995 world champions remain "the boat to fear".

The new-look men's lightweight quad, stroked by the veteran, Stuart

Forbes, back in international action after a break of six years, is in an entry of 15 crews. The Italians, with their 1995 bronze-medal crew and Ireland and New Zealand, with some personnel fresh from Atlanta, look like the crews to beat.

There are high hopes of medals among Britain's lightweight women. Sue Applebaum, fourth in the world in 1995, and in an entry of 19 scullers, has had a good build-up in European regattas. Anna Helleberg, from Denmark, and the 1995 bronze medal-winner, Annette Bogstra, from Holland, cannot be discounted, however, and Adair Ferguson, the 1985 world champion from Australia, certainly has the experience.

Also, the appearance of Constanta Burcu, of Romania, fresh from an Atlanta double scull, adds pressure.

Alison Brownless, Britain's most successful woman rower, and Jane Hall, the world lightweight pair silver medal-winners in 1995, have only seven rivals but the 1995 gold medal-winners from the United States, Christine Smith and Ellen Mitzner, are among them.

The United States, Britain and Germany, the leading three in 1995, again spearhead the women's lightweight coxed fours. Robyn Morris and Jo Nitsch remaining from Britain's silver medal crew last year.

Rowers are clearly vying with their feet in the heavyweight coxed pairs

and coxed fours. Discarded by FISA, the sport's international governing body, from the Olympic Games, 12 and 15-nation entries tend to question that decision. Form is vague although Britain's Nottingham County coxed four finished second in Lucerne and Damian West and David Beckley in the coxed pair recently won silver in the Nations Cup British coxed four.

The British junior crews enter the fray tomorrow and are unlikely to be overshadowed in the medal hunt by their elders. Mark Banks, chief junior coach, has set up a pecking order with the junior coxed four, so often successful for Britain in the past, and the junior eight as the highest pedigree rowing crews.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hull hope for quick route back to the top

By Christopher Irvine

HULL, a dominant force in the game in the Seventies, will put forward an application to be "fast-tracked" into the Stones Super League next season, provided they maintain their top four place in the first division.

Any submission would be looked at sympathetically by the Rugby Football League. Local rivalries scuppered the governing body's original vision of a Super League club created by a merger between Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers.

Salford have all but guaranteed themselves the one automatic promotion place for this season, and South Wales have used the "fast-tracking" procedure to gain admittance in 1997. From a geographical perspective, Hull's entry would broaden the horizons of the Super League.

The difficulty would be if Hull finish in their present fourth place. Keighley Cougars and Featherstone Rovers, who are above them, lost out in the final draft of the 12-club structure. To lose out again in an expansion to 14 clubs would be deemed more than just unfair. Allan Mason, the Hull chairman, said: "With the increasing desire to play more competitive matches in the Super League, Hull wish to make their bid on merit. Historical contributions, facilities and strategic geographical significance qualify the bid, based on fairness and achievement."

Whether there would be the quality of players to go round 14 clubs is another problem. Salford are the latest to show an interest in Shaun Edwards, of Wigan, who have already rejected approaches by Keighley and Huddersfield, a sign that the Great Britain captain will see out the year on his contract at Central Park.

Scotland and Ireland meet tonight at Patrick Thistle Football Club — the first international match in Scotland for 85 years.

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Johnson leaves elite field trailing

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTA

IT STARTED with Ecuador's first Olympic gold medal and ended with South Africa's first by a black athlete. Neither was predicted, but between Jefferson Perez winning the men's 200 metres walk in front of almost a full house of 83,000 at breakfast time on the opening morning and Josia Thugwane leading home the men's marathon on the concluding day, the upsets were few.

Who needed them? The drama, the tension, the close finishes, the cacophony of support inside the Centennial Stadium combined to make this an unforgettable celebration of athletics. Even the bad days were good. If there has been a better Olympics for track and field, book me a seat on the time machine and take me back there.

The obvious highlight was Michael Johnson's completion of the first Olympic 200/400 metres double with a world-record 19.32 for the shorter distance. He could not believe the speed of it himself. "I would like to have watched that. I am a track fan," he said.

The stadium roared at Johnson's futuristic performance, 0.34 seconds chopped off the record. What was curious was that the voice of the crowd moved seamlessly onto the next event. One looked for Johnson in the first semi-final of the men's 5,000 metres, but no, he was not still running. It sounded as though he must be. "Some pockets of this land are keen on track, Atlanta is not such a place," the Atlanta Journal-Constitution had warned. "We need all the coaching we can get." Uncoached, Atlanta made a noise anyway.

Almost every seat was filled, two sessions a day for nine days. In Barcelona and Seoul, the Games between Los Angeles and Atlanta, the mornings were half-empty. Spectators were rewarded with two world records. The first was Donovan Bailey's 9.84sec for 100 metres after Linford Christie had stirred the drama, holding up the final while arguing over two false starts that got him disqualified.

Into the mix, Atlanta had a home-town victory. Derrick Adkins won the 400 metres hurdles. "I feel I do not have to win another race in my life," he said. Three athletes won two individual events: Johnson, Marie José Pérez, from France (200/400), and Svetlana Masterkova, from Russia (800/1,500). Carl Lewis, with his long jump victory, became only the second athlete after Al Oerter in the discus to win a fourth Olympic title in one event.

The contrast between Lewis's joy and Mike Powell's sadness, as he



Vegbjorn Rodal, of Norway, can scarcely believe his triumph as he secures the 800 metres gold medal. Photograph: Gary Hershorn

was helped from the pit injured, enriched the drama. That same evening Sally Gunnell needed a wheelchair after breaking down in the semi-finals of the 400 metres hurdles, her Olympic title defence in ruins. There were more tears than rain over the nine days: Gunnell, Sonia O'Sullivan, Jackie Joyner-Kersey for their misfortune, Johnson on the podium.

Powell and O'Sullivan have won world titles, set world records and

been in the forefront for years but are still without an Olympic title: the same goes for Moses Kiptanui (steepchase), Colin Jackson (110 metres hurdles), Frankie Fredericks (100/200 metres), Merlene Ottey (200 metres). One who broke from the group was Dan O'Brien, winner of the decathlon.

Uncomfortable for the sport, too many titles went to athletes convicted of drug offences but allowed back: Ludmilla Engquist (100 metres hurdles), Chioma Ajunwa (long jump), Randy Barnes (shot).

On the subject of drugs, the Irish journalists let Johnson enjoy his celebrations. No interrogation of the kind that Michelle Smith, Ireland's winner of three swimming gold medals, was subjected to by the US media.

In apple-pie country, some were forced on to humble pie. Duane Ladejo, the Briton who had spoken of beating Johnson but failed to

make the 400 metres final, comes to mind. We saw the greatest women's 10,000 metres contest yet. Fernanda Ribeiro, from Portugal, seemingly dropped by Wang Junxia on the last lap, then catching the Chinese and squeezing by her in the finishing straight.

The two 1,500 metres events were dramatic. Hassiba Boulmerka, the defending women's champion, falling in the semi-finals and Hicham El Guerrouj, a serious contender for the men's title, falling in the final. The men's hammer, the women's 100 metres high jump and 4x400 metres were classics. So was the men's 20 kilometres walk. "When I look the lead I felt very tired, as if I was half-asleep," Perez said. "It felt like a dream then I thought 'this is my dream'. I have to go to it even if I die."

These were athletes driven by their iron will. For rewards best summed up by the pole vault gold medal-winner, Jean Galfione, when asked what he was thinking on the podium. "Remember everything, remember everything," Galfione said. "These are the most important moments of your life."

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Basketball

Women's play-offs
BRONZE MEDAL MATCH: Australia 56 UK
FINAL: United States 111 Brazil 87

Boxing

Finals
FLYWEIGHT: M. Romero (Cuba) bt B. Durnakov (Russia)
LIGHTWEIGHT: S. Kamsang (Thailand) bt S. Todorov (Bulgaria)
LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT: H. Virent (Cuba) bt O. Ural (Ukraine)
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT: D. Reid (USA) bt A. Damsel (Cuba) 2nd rd
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT: V. Jov (Kazakhstan) bt L. S. S. (Russia)

Equestrianism

Individual showjumping
FINAL: 1. U. Kuchel (Germany), 2. J. De Boer (Netherlands), 3. A. Lademann (France), 4. M. Siron (Austria), 5. J. F. (France), 6. J. (France), 7. J. (France), 8. J. (France), 9. J. (France), 10. J. (France)

Gymnastics

Individual rhythmic
FINAL: 1. Y. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 2. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 3. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 4. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 5. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 6. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 7. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 8. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 9. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia), 10. J. Serebryanskaya (Russia)

Handball

Men's play-offs
BRONZE MEDAL MATCH: Spain 27 France 25
FINAL: Croatia 27 Sweden 26

Volleyball

Men's play-offs
BRONZE MEDAL MATCH: Yugoslavia bt Russia
FINAL: Holland bt Italy 15-12, 9-15, 15-14, 9-15, 17-15

1996 OLYMPIC ROLL OF HONOUR

Archery			Badminton			Canoeing			Handball			Modern pentathlon			Swimming			Table tennis			Water polo			Wrestling			Judo			Shooting			Tennis		
Men's Individual: 1. J. Huh (USA), 2. M. Petersen (Sweden), 3. O. Yoon (KOR)			Men's Singles: 1. P. E. Hoyer-Larsen (Den), 2. D. Jang (KOR), 3. S. Rashedi (Iran)			Men's Singles: 1. L. P. (USA), 2. V. (USA), 3. V. (USA)			Men's: 1. Croatia, 2. Spain, 3. Hungary			Men's: 1. A. Pargny (Kaz), 2. E. Zerkova (Russia), 3. J. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. Popov (Russia), 2. G. (USA), 3. G. (USA)			Men's Singles: 1. L. (China), 2. L. (China), 3. L. (China)			Men's: 1. Spain, 2. Croatia, 3. Italy			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)		
Women's Individual: 1. K. Kim (KOR), 2. Y. Huh (KOR), 3. S. Rashedi (Iran)			Men's Doubles: 1. P. E. Hoyer-Larsen (Den), 2. D. Jang (KOR), 3. S. Rashedi (Iran)			Men's Doubles: 1. L. P. (USA), 2. V. (USA), 3. V. (USA)			Women's: 1. Denmark, 2. South Korea, 3. Hungary			Women's: 1. A. Pargny (Kaz), 2. E. Zerkova (Russia), 3. J. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. Popov (Russia), 2. G. (USA), 3. G. (USA)			Women's Doubles: 1. L. (China), 2. L. (China), 3. L. (China)			Women's: 1. Spain, 2. Croatia, 3. Italy			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)		
Men's Team: 1. United States, 2. South Korea, 3. Italy			Women's Doubles: 1. P. E. Hoyer-Larsen (Den), 2. D. Jang (KOR), 3. S. Rashedi (Iran)			Women's Doubles: 1. L. P. (USA), 2. V. (USA), 3. V. (USA)			Men's: 1. Croatia, 2. Spain, 3. Hungary			Men's: 1. A. Pargny (Kaz), 2. E. Zerkova (Russia), 3. J. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. Popov (Russia), 2. G. (USA), 3. G. (USA)			Men's Team: 1. United States, 2. South Korea, 3. Italy			Men's: 1. Spain, 2. Croatia, 3. Italy			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Men's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)		
Women's Team: 1. United States, 2. South Korea, 3. Italy			Men's Team: 1. United States, 2. South Korea, 3. Italy			Men's Team: 1. United States, 2. South Korea, 3. Italy			Women's: 1. Denmark, 2. South Korea, 3. Hungary			Women's: 1. A. Pargny (Kaz), 2. E. Zerkova (Russia), 3. J. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. Popov (Russia), 2. G. (USA), 3. G. (USA)			Women's Team: 1. United States, 2. South Korea, 3. Italy			Women's: 1. Spain, 2. Croatia, 3. Italy			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)			Women's: 1. A. (Russia), 2. A. (Russia), 3. A. (Russia)		

Boxing seen
method of
levelling the
score

One man and his insomniac dog retire unbeaten



MATTHEW BOND
ON THE
TELEVISION
MARATHON

The voice was unmistakable: "From the Olympic city of Atlanta, good night... or is it good morning?" Only David Coleman could turn goodnight into a controversy. After 16 days and over 300 hours of television coverage, the Olympic Games were finally over.

To be fair to Coleman there were mitigating circumstances. It was late whichever time zone you were operating in. In Atlanta, it was midnight and the party was still humming. Back home it was 3am, a time of day when viewing figures are down to one man and his insomniac dog. Actually, it was worse than that — the dog had called it a night when he spotted the kangaroos on bicycles. If this was Sydney 2000, he was having none of it.

The final day had been a long one for Coleman. It had started before 7am local time, with the coverage of the marathon. So what if Brendan Foster did most of the talking? Coleman had been there by his side, ever ready to chip in with a "I've seen marathon medals won or lost on the track" or the thoughts of President Mandela on Josia Thugwane's victory: "Absolutely delighted, I'm sure."

Seventeen hours later and we were both still going strong. Together we had endured the dance of the quilts: watched surely the ugliest flame in Olympic history (a chip carton mounted on a fire escape is the nearest I can get to it) be extinguished; and once again we had been forced to listen to Juan Antonio Samaranch calling on everyone younger than himself to do it all over again in four years' time.

Now, after sitting through what Coleman described as "the greatest jam session in history" and what was indisputably the longest, it was time for him to have his say.

It was not good enough. "It's time to look back and cut back and look forward and refine the programme... The IOC must have a rethink and so must our politicians." As I sat there in the increasingly bright light of dawn, I wondered where he had got that idea from?

Perhaps from Des Lynam, who mounted his own little outburst a few hours earlier but was lucky enough to have had his go out in prime time. Lynam's shock conclusion? It was not good enough.

But whatever you think of the

Olympics and whatever your view of Britain's ability to compete at the highest level, there is no denying that the BBC's coverage of the 26th Olympiad was plenty good enough. It was outstanding.

Helped by some superlative pictures provided by the host broadcaster (only in the athletics stadium did the pictures become overtly partisan) and hindered by a time difference that was always going to rob it of the mass audiences of Barcelona, the corporation produced a superlative package of round-the-clock programming. Its commitment to live coverage at hours when peak audiences were likely to be under 2 million was particularly impressive.

My quibbles would be small ones. First, the BBC can still learn from its American host's clever use of graphics (the marathon on Sunday and cycling time-trial on Saturday were particularly good examples) and that a predictable source of medals should not be ignored. Sailing never an easy television sport, still deserves more than most. McKee's five minutes a day.

Europe's satellite channel also had a good Games, helped by clever cherry-picking of so-called secondary sports and by a real commitment to have its commentators on site.

So was our nocturnal marathon worth it? I definitely thought it was... or rather I did until I saw those geniuses of the BBC edit suites reduce 16 consecutive late nights and 80-90 hours of singlehanded watching... to just 20 minutes of brilliantly-assembled highlights. It was a distinctly sobering experience. It was definitely time for bed.

Boxing seen
method of
levelling the
score

CRICKET: WASIM LEADS FROM FRONT IN SUMMARY DISMISSAL OF DURHAM BEFORE SECOND TEST

Pakistan ready to shuffle pack for Headingley

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET: The Pakistanis beat Durham by seven wickets

IT took the Pakistanis 26 overs to make the 134 they needed to beat Durham and, although the abominable pitch still held a few terrors, they lost only three wickets along the way. Asif Mujtaba secured one end for 19 unbeaten runs as his partners went for their shots at the other. It felt like end-of-term cricket, not preparation for an important Test match.

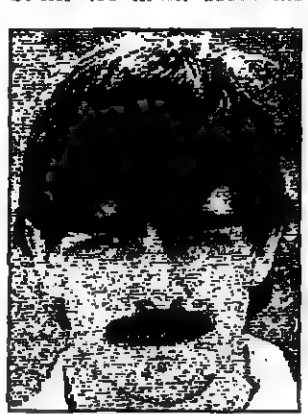
Little Asif had good reason to apply himself because, when that Test begins at Headingley on Thursday, there may be a place for him. Asif Mujtaba, the opening batsman, saw a specialist in Leeds last night for advice on the arm injury that kept him out of this match and he must be a considerable loss for the Pakistanis, as he is a handy fifth bowler as well as a very good and reliable batsman.

If he is unavailable, Pakistan can slide Shadab Kabir, who made his Test debut at Lord's, into the opening spot, alongside Saeed Anwar, and bring in Asif to reinforce the middle order, either at No 5 or, if Salim Malik is dropped, one place lower. Salim did not have a distinguished match, bowled off a no-ball yesterday by Killeen when he was bowled, and then "boxed" by Wood before he hit the winning run.

By dropping Salim, Pakistan could then include the talented 19-year-old off spinner, Saqlain Mushtaq, who took six wickets in this match and once again revealed himself to be a capable cricketer. Wasim Akram, who made a

brisk half-century here and is a noticeably relaxed captain, could promote himself to No 7 in the order, which is not too great a risk for a batsman of his ability.

First of all, the Pakistanis will want to have a look at the Headingley pitch, which will have more grass on than Lord's, as England seek to shift the balance of the series from swing to seam. There is a bit of kidology in all this, as if all the Pakistanis can do is swing the old ball. They won't bother too much about the



Brown effective

pitch they find at Leeds, because they have the bowlers to win any match.

Wasim was in his element with the ball against Durham, adding four second innings to the three he earned on Saturday. Despite reducing his run, and pace, the batsmen had no answer to the range of his bowling from over and round the wicket. He conceded 19 runs in as many overs, the wastrel! He needs nine more wickets for 300 in Tests and nobody should be against his achieving his third "century"

of his remarkable career at Headingley.

Brown, caught at short leg as he fended off a short ball, and Saeed, bowled, were his victims yesterday, after Durham resumed on 96 for seven. Roseberry, batting with a fractured right index finger, went in between, bowled as he advanced to drive Saqlain. For this innings and his unbeaten 93 on the first day, when his finger was cracked, the Durham captain was named man of the match.

The award might easily have gone to Brown, whose two wickets yesterday gave him seven in a losing cause. He never gets too worked up about his successes and his apparent lack of ambition may count against him in the long run, but Durham could do with a few more like him. Saeed was caught down the legside and Ijaz, who batted like a man in a hurry, was leg before.

Inzamam, as everybody knows, does not like running any more than he has to and this mood suited the Pakistanis, who clearly wanted to get to Leeds as soon as possible. After spanking strokes to the boundary on both sides of the wicket, he skied an attempted pick-up to Ligertwood.

With 11 runs needed, Morris, the acting captain, gave Robin Weston a go with his leg spin and Salim, a part-time leggie himself, smashed his first ball to the cover boundary. Weston, like his Worcestershire-based brother, was christened with three names, the last of them, intriguingly, Swann. So there is at least one reader of Froust in the North East.



Saeed drives to the boundary during the Pakistanis' victory. Photograph: Carl Rutherford

Leicestershire pay price for captain's caution

BY IVO TENNANT

LEICESTERSHIRE (final day of four): Leicestershire (9pts) drew with Northamptonshire (11)

JUDGING the timing of a declaration is one of the most difficult aspects of captaincy. Phil Simmons, leading Leicestershire for the first time in a championship match, had a stab at doing so yesterday. He left Northamptonshire to make 296 off what, ultimately, was 59 overs, and that, on a pitch giving his spinners some help, proved insufficient time to bowl them out.

To what extent the thinking

was affected by historical rivalry was hard to ascertain. That they go to the top of the table, ahead of Yorkshire as well as Surrey, was entirely due to being rewarded for gaining a draw. The three points that they received amount to their lead of the championship.

Although they had won their four previous championship matches and Pierson and Brimston obtained some turn, Leicestershire could only contemplate bowling Northamptonshire out for a second time. As was the case when they came so close to becoming champions under Nigel Bri-

essentially a collection of average players who make the most of their ability.

Take Maddy, his century was the first of his career and hence was an important innings. It did, though, take almost six hours and he took 16 balls to make the all-important run at a time when Simmons was looking to declare. Rather than do so at lunch, when Maddy was unbeaten with 99, he chose to continue batting afterwards, and when that elusive run was finally scored, it was as a result of a misfield by Ambrose.

A Leicestershire captain of the past, such as Tony Lock or

Raymond Illingworth, would assuredly have declared earlier. Then again, they would have bowled out their opponents themselves.

Such wickets as Simmons's bowlers gave him now came only intermittently. Mulally, who relished some uneven bounce that he found at one end, struck Fordham on the helmet before having him caught at second slip. Walton and Capel were leg-before to Pierson, swinging across the line. The ball that removed the latter kept decidedly low.

When Curran came in and took the attack to the bowlers in his pugilistic way, North-

amptonshire's requirements did not seem quite so unrealistic.

At the start of the last hour, which nowadays is 16 overs, they needed 146, six wickets intact. In the kind of form that Curran was in — 150 on Saturday, an unbeaten half century on Sunday — he might as well have had a go. His difficulty was retaining partners. Loye was stubbornly effective, but was in no mood to attempt to make rapid runs. Penberthy went without scoring to Pierson.

Sooner or later, whoever is leading Leicestershire will have to take a greater risk than their captain did here.



Curran: aggressive

Lampitt piles on misery for Kent

BY JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (final day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Kent (6) by 192 runs

GLORIOUS weather and delightful surroundings, but otherwise it has been a Canterbury cricket festival which Kent will want to forget. It began with the news that they had lost one captain (Benson) and mislaid his successor (Marsh, with a broken finger). Then there was that traumatic ten-wicket defeat on Sunday, not to mention Mark Ealham's injury. Yesterday brought comprehensive defeat by Worcestershire in the championship. Kent's first loss of the season, as they were bowled out for 108 runs in two hours and 20 minutes.

Daryl Foster, the Kent coach, expressed their determination to overcome what he termed "a blip". While admitting that Kent's approach to batting last on a highly-suspect pitch had been too frenetic, he pointed to the immense advantage attached to winning the toss and having a player such as Graeme Hick to take advantage of it.

For many, though, there was one further ingredient to be added. That lay in the contributions of Rhodes and Lampitt for Worcestershire. When Worcestershire's first innings was in danger of subsiding, these two added 159 for the seventh wicket. Yesterday, their contribution to Worcestershire's lead of 300 was an unbroken stand of 70.

A silly run-out began Kent's headlong decline. Fulton played into the covers and called, unwisely, for a single. Walker declined and the throw of Curtis, coming in from mid-off, easily beat Ful-

ton's hasty scramble to regain his crease.

After that, only Fleming's forthright treatment of anything remotely pitched up rescued any kind of harvest. Others attempted similar tactics and perished. The ball came through at varying heights and Sheriary and Lampitt had only to bowl line and length against batting more cavalier than staunch.

After Walker had fished for a wide one, Hooper and Long fell to successive balls from Sheriary. When Ward holed out from a skier to mid-off, five wickets were down for 53. Sheriary had taken three for four in 15 balls and the end was in sight. After Fleming departed for 31, Lampitt duly polished off the tail.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 459 for 9 dec (G A Hick 148, S R Lampitt 88, K R Spring 57, S J Rhodes 58)

Second Innings
T S Currie c Wiles b Headley 19
W P C Weston c Fulton b McCague 0
G A Hick 148
T M Moody b Headley 2
K R Spring c Hooper b Headley 0
V S Solomons b Headley 0
S J Rhodes not out 41
S R Lampitt not out 88
Extras (lb 12, lb 10, nb 4) 26
Total (8 wickets dec) 207

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-8, 3-42, 4-86, 5-145, 6-148, 7-148, 8-148, 9-148, 10-148, 11-148, 12-148, 13-148, 14-148, 15-148, 16-148, 17-148, 18-148, 19-148, 20-148, 21-148, 22-148, 23-148, 24-148, 25-148, 26-148, 27-148, 28-148, 29-148, 30-148, 31-148, 32-148, 33-148, 34-148, 35-148, 36-148, 37-148, 38-148, 39-148, 40-148, 41-148, 42-148, 43-148, 44-148, 45-148, 46-148, 47-148, 48-148, 49-148, 50-148, 51-148, 52-148, 53-148, 54-148, 55-148, 56-148, 57-148, 58-148, 59-148, 60-148, 61-148, 62-148, 63-148, 64-148, 65-148, 66-148, 67-148, 68-148, 69-148, 70-148, 71-148, 72-148, 73-148, 74-148, 75-148, 76-148, 77-148, 78-148, 79-148, 80-148, 81-148, 82-148, 83-148, 84-148, 85-148, 86-148, 87-148, 88-148, 89-148, 90-148, 91-148, 92-148, 93-148, 94-148, 95-148, 96-148, 97-148, 98-148, 99-148, 100-148, 101-148, 102-148, 103-148, 104-148, 105-148, 106-148, 107-148, 108-148, 109-148, 110-148, 111-148, 112-148, 113-148, 114-148, 115-148, 116-148, 117-148, 118-148, 119-148, 120-148, 121-148, 122-148, 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Hello, hello, hello: the police have come back

Hello, I'm Edward Woodward. Lovely phrase, isn't it? Not quite in the "Hello, my name is Michael Caine" league, but then again, not far off. And so evocative — past glories, righted wrongs, scruffy old raincoat — five little words and we're away. Which, I suppose, is why it's so good for a spot of easy money these days, especially now the bottom has fallen out of the counter-intelligence market.

Turn up, say "Hello, I'm Edward Woodward", make sure all your introductions end with three dead air seconds... and thank you very much. I'll have an elegantly-sized cheque, please, and be off to do some proper acting. But more of *In Suspicious Circumstances*... we have other hellos to deal with first.

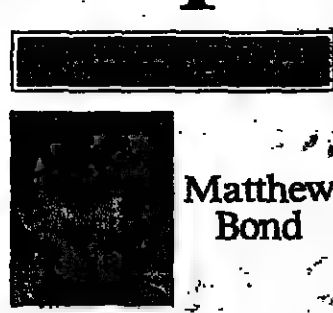
For reasons that escape me, I only seem to remember two things about the first series of *Out of the Blue* (BBC1). The first was lots of

wobbly camera work shamelessly ripped off from *NYPD Blue* and the second was John Hannah lying in a large pool of blood. Last night's opening episode to series two still had the "point and pan" camera-work (slightly diluted, or are we just getting used to it?) and there was absolutely no sign of Hannah. Either I'd dreamt that bit or the experience had proved fatal. But what of the hellos? I'm just coming to them. To cast one soup star can be anything from an act of charity to a creative masterstroke, but two... (don't worry, these dots are harmless), two is definitely pushing it. So no sooner had we said: "Hello, isn't that young Joe from *EastEnders*?" than it was "Hello, have you seen what Margaret from *Brookside* is doing on the floor with DC Allen?"

Paul Nicholls, the current heart-throb of Albert Square, had been spotted up north — bit of stubble, a

generous spattering of acne. But he still looked a little unconvincing as Matt, the wayward father of a missing baby. As the cynical DC Brazil (Neil Dudgeon) put it: "I'm amazed he wasn't snatched as well."

Nicola Stephenson couldn't be upped up if the BBC make-up department tried, which is convenient as, playing the part of Lucy, she seems to have been cast as the huge interloper for Allen D'Silva and, on the evidence of this brief acquaintance, precious little else. Still, it's early days. They met last night while Allen was investigating his father's possibly illegal sex-life and got on rather better than police regulations would allow. "I'd say that DC Allen is not the kind of officer to take advantage of his position in a situation like this," said his loyal and beautiful superior, DS Bennett (Orla Brady).



Matthew Bond

Alas, her loyalty was misplaced. At that precise moment, Allen was taking advantage of Lucy's glibness to position her in the arms of a police patrol vehicle. Both stories were resolved in a stylish manner that suggests a safe way of getting close to wildlife and an open interview which goes deeper than a facious exterior might suggest. He can find nothing good to say about old age, and certainly not being offered a seat on a bus, though he does derive a morbid enjoyment from scanning obituary notices for people younger than himself. But he has had an enjoyably rumbustious, and sometimes disreputable, life and still drinks more heavily than his doctor thinks wise.

him into trouble and Monday night had just the sort of drama we need to get us through until September.

No sooner had Woodward popped up to say: "Hello, I'm Edward Woodward" at the start of *In Suspicious Circumstances* (ITV) than popped Joe's mum. "Hello, isn't that Lorraine with her hair up?" I wondered. Some nimble work with the pages of the *Radio Times* confirmed my suspicion. It was indeed Lorraine Leonard, taking a night off from playground protests to move up the social ladder to play the wife of a successful gambler and Old Lady Frank Smith (Jeremy Clyde). The phrase "no sooner" is, of course, accurate. For in being so quick to do his stuff, Woodward and Clyde doing the same thing, the police have concentrated on *EastEnders*. Allen had a new girlfriend to get

murdering bigamist. "Hello, isn't that my sister?" I thought. It didn't need the *Radio Times* to tell me that it was, so I spent much of the remaining 30 minutes worrying whether I should mention it. So now I have.

The balance of the time I spent worrying about something else entirely. For it later turned out that Arthur Golet, the husband in question, actually had three wives. The govt. was the govt. and you are that way inclined do you have to go straight from being a bigamist to a polygamist or do you have a brief spell as a trigamist?

As well as distributing the deadly dots in his introductions ("the consequences would be deadly...") and his passion for gambling ended in death... Woodward helped the reconstructions along with a bit of narration. On the basis of last night's two cases, the crimes have

been well chosen and sufficient time has passed for both stories were from 1920s for any risk of offence to be minimal. You can question the dialogue (after all, walls don't have ears, so how does anybody know what was said?) but you cannot question its impeccable delivery... well, not if you're a brother.

Earlier, the evening had got under way with "Hello, isn't that Dr. Thomas Sutcliffe?" The *Times* medical columnist? It was and very quickly it became clear that, to be more specific, it was Dr. Sutcliffe being thrown to the lions on the Rantzen Report (BBC1). Dr. Sutcliffe believes myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) is a form of depression, while Esther Rantzen and her far from impartial studio audience did not. As you would expect from a *Times* man, Dr. Sutcliffe went down fighting but it was still a dreadful sight to behold.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (30438) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (61709) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (2270709)

9.20 Della Smith's Summer Collection (1) (Ceslas) (1) (7880780)

9.50 **NEW** Gourmet Ireland. Return of the foodie series (1) (5224780)

10.20 **FILM: The Happiest Days of Your Life** (1950, b/w). Classic British comedy set in the Second World War. A girls' school is evacuated to the country, but, belated with boys' school, high school, Mrs. Margaret Rutherford, Guy Middleton and Joyce Grenfell. Directed by Frank Launder. Includes news at 11.00 (6996700)

11.50 **Lifeline** (1) (Ceslas) (1) (8051781)

12.00 News and weather (Ceslas) (1823898)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (1) (4193099)

12.35 Neighbours (Ceslas) (1) (8024002)

1.00 News and weather (Ceslas) (64898)

1.30 Regional News and weather (42208051)

1.40 Small Talk (1) (Ceslas) (5254457) 2.10 **Lovely Joe** (1) (Ceslas) (7715831) 3.00 **Unsuspect** (1) (Ceslas) (5254457) 3.20 **The Flying Doctors** (1) (Ceslas) (1) (8518490) 4.50 **Knots Landing** (1) (1) (8409047)

5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceslas) (1) (870902)

6.00 News and weather (Ceslas) (761)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (341)

7.00 **Watchdog: Value for Money**. Vanessa Feltz files to New York to see how that city caters for big women. Plus: how Olympic-style swimming costumes fare in a local pool (Ceslas) (1) (5815)

7.30 **EastEnders**. Joe drops David in at the deep end, but Joe and Lorraine agree to look to the future. Peggy brings an important lunch for George (Ceslas) (1) (525)

8.00 **Down to Earth Safari**. Riding Elephants in Botswana (Ceslas) (1) (1235)

8.30 **Goodnight Sweetheart**. Gary's fictional job with Ron may cost him his trip to 1941 but it doesn't pay the bills (1) (Ceslas) (1) (8070)

9.00 **News**. Regional News and Weather (Ceslas) (4780)

9.30 **Out of This World**. Exploring the personal. First Officer Mark Stewart, a British Airways pilot, talks about his encounter with a mystery craft, minutes before landing at Manchester airport (Ceslas) (1) (840985)

10.15 **FILM: The Witches of Eastwick** (1987) with Jack Nicholson, Cheryl Chase, Bartu and Michelle Pfeiffer. Black comedy. Three amateur witches, short of love, summon the Devil to their New England town. When he arrives they (and he) get more than they bargained for. Directed by George Miller (675148)

12.05 **FILM: The Day the World Ended** (1955, b/w). Part of the Allen Ineson series. When the Earth is ravaged by nuclear war, survivors fight among themselves over their mountain cabin sanctuary, until their shelter is visited by a new race of mutant cannibals. With Richard Denning and Lori Nelson. Directed by Roger Corman (2005029)

1.30-1.55am **Video** (1572133)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

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SKY NEWS

News on the hour

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Drifting Continents (3042438) 6.25 The History of Maths (3054273) 6.50 Running the Community (2262631)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (730254)

7.30 Postman Pat (1) (4581438) 7.45 **Leslie** (1) (1102815) 8.10 **Smurfs' Adventures** (5713438) 8.35 **Get Your Own Back** (8234001) 9.05 **Spideyman** (1) (2263222)

9.25 **Global Games** (1) (7896341)

9.50 **Poddington Peas** (1) (3494506)

10.00 **Playdays** (7431188)

10.25 **Men in a Suitscase** (Ceslas) (2103508)

11.15 **A Passion for Angling** (1) (Ceslas) (8355051) 12.05pm **The Addams Family** (b/w) (1) (8151896)

12.30 **Making Tracks** (57419) 1.00 **Postman Pat** (4523341) 1.15 **A-Z of Food** (24252438) 1.25 **Wear It Well** (45229148) 1.40 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** (Ceslas) (8300022) 2.20 **Gray's Anatomy** (87658954)

2.45 **A Life of Knowledge** (4713728) 3.00 **News** (1002254) 3.05 **The Natural World** (1173877) 3.55 **News** (3887525)

4.00 **Cartoon** (5358612) 4.05 **The Family** (5835883) 4.10 **Peter Pan** and the Pirates (Ceslas) (2357815) 4.30 **Ocean Odyssey** (Ceslas) (438) 5.00 **Newsround** (1176378) 5.10 **Byker Grove** (1) (Ceslas) (484618)

5.35 **Neighbours** (1) (Ceslas) (1) (870902)

6.00 News and weather (Ceslas) (761)

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9.00 **News**. Regional News and Weather (Ces

As the outcry over the abortion of a single twin continues, Halina Kierkuc talks about being the mother of twin girls



Halina Kierkuc with daughters Georgia and Clementine

When the doctor who was to perform my amniocentesis turned on the monitor, there was a long silence. My husband and I both panicked as we watched him scrutinise the screen, checking and double checking the flickering image.

"What's wrong?" I asked, already close to tears. "Nothing," he replied after a moment. "They both look fine." It was only then, 16 weeks into my pregnancy, we realised I was carrying twins.

We went from shock through elation and then back into shock. We had already taken the difficult decision that if the amniocentesis showed a foetal abnormality in what we thought was a single child, we would not go ahead with the pregnancy. Now we needed to know what would happen if one child was healthy and the other was not.

We were told that it would be possible to terminate just one of the pregnancies but somehow the idea of aborting a single twin, and leaving the other behind, was excruciating. It changed everything.

Eventually, the amniocentesis showed that both babies were normal. But the three-week wait for the result was the worst time of my life. The thought of the dreadful dilemma we might have faced has haunted me ever since. I will never know what our decision would have been, but I think I understand a little of what the mother at Queen

Life with twins is twice as good, twice as bad

Charlotte's Hospital must be thinking as she prepares to have one of her healthy twin foetuses aborted.

What I can say for certain is that being the parent of twins has been the most joyful, and the most difficult, experience of my life. My girls, Clementine and Georgia, have just turned four. They are a very special team and I cannot imagine, or even remember, life without them.

But there have been times in the past four years when I have been close to despair, even though I have a supportive partner and have been able to afford help. The problems of coping with a multiple birth should never be underestimated.

Even before birth, twins can present problems. I was warned that with twice the dose of pregnancy hormone in my system, I was likely to suffer from particularly debilitating bouts of morning sickness. And with two babies sapping your resources, you feel constantly exhausted. By the 32nd week of my pregnancy, I was the size that most women reach at term. Gigantic. I could barely sit still, let alone eat or

sleep in comfort. I was ordered by my doctor to give up work and stay in bed. I was fortunate not to have another child to cope with.

Despite my best efforts to rest, the girls were born prematurely. When they eventually left hospital, tiny scraps at 4lb each, we spent our savings on a maternity nurse to help to look after them — a luxury that simply is not available to most families.

The regime was still punishing. The girls were so small I was determined to breastfeed them. For the first few weeks, it was a process that seemed to occupy most of our waking hours and replaced the ones that we had previously used for sleep. By the time both children were fed I had approximately 45 minutes before the whole routine started again.

At least we had a washing-machine and dryer at home. For the first six months they were never switched off. I had intended to be environmentally friendly and use terry-towelling nappies. In the end I

resorted to disposables to earn myself a few extra hours out of the kitchen. Our nappy bill escalated to about £16 a week.

Realising that we were heading towards bankruptcy, we did our best to minimise our costs, but even shopping second-hand, twins are an expensive business. There are two cots to buy, two sets of toys, a double buggy to finance and a bigger room to get ready.

Emotionally and physically those months were harrowing. The instant one fell asleep at night, the other would wake up screaming. When one was ravenously hungry, the other was off her feed. If one was sick, her sister would give us just enough time to clear up before she would oblige.

Of course any parent with more than one child faces similar problems but I believe having two children of exactly the same age can be more frustrating. Instead of having one older and more sensible child who can take a lead looking after and entertaining the younger ones, we have two little girls who are

not only fiercely competitive but who are at times as lethally perverse as each other.

This was especially devastating when they were toddlers. There is nothing quite as soul-destroying as a double-headed tantrum in the supermarket, or children who run away from you in opposite directions. Even if you can keep an eye on both, who do you choose to recapture first — the one heading towards the road, or the one about to fling herself down the escalator?

The girls are rarely ill together but prefer to take to their beds in sequence. Our first experience of this phenomenon occurred just after they had started nursery. Clementine was the first to catch chickenpox. On the very day she returned to school after a fortnight at home, Georgia was sent home with a fresh crop of spots.

Nor do I believe that our life will become easier now they are about to start primary school. Having your sister in the same class is tough, especially for the one who isn't as good at maths or gym. Once we get past that, I always have the prospect of a double dose of adolescence to look forward to.

The good times with twins may be twice as good, but the bad times can be infinitely more difficult. I love them desperately, but I would be the first to admit they have often pushed me to the very edge — and then just a bit beyond.

How a broken man became a giant

For a man who can lift cars and juggle 40kg weights, Valentin Dikul is charmingly mild and polite. In the hall of his rehabilitation centre, he gives an encouraging smile to a Moscow traffic policeman, still in his grey uniform and hovering nervously.

The policeman wants some advice for a relative. "Has he got a broken spine?" asks Dikul. "Ring me after the fifth and we'll see what we can do." This new case registered in his mind, he walks onto the next job in hand, swinging his arms, radiating energy.

Talking to Dikul you very quickly forget that he, too, used to be on the other side, one of the non-walkers, confined to a wheelchair. He has a kindly and very Russian aura about him. With a bushy

When Valentin Dikul broke his back, his story of astonishing courage was only just beginning, says Thomas de Waal

beard, flecked with grey and gold, and tousled grey neck-length hair, he could be a gentle giant from a folk tale. Russian village traditions are full of such people — wild-haired healers with legendary strength from the steppes of Siberia or the forests of the far north. He looks like a good Rasputin, although he would

resent the comparison or any mention of faith-healing or superstition.

His accident happened in 1962, when he was a teenage circus trapeze artist. He grabbed hold of a trapeze and the bar broke in his hand. He fell 40ft, breaking ten bones and fracturing his spine. The doctors told him he would not walk again.

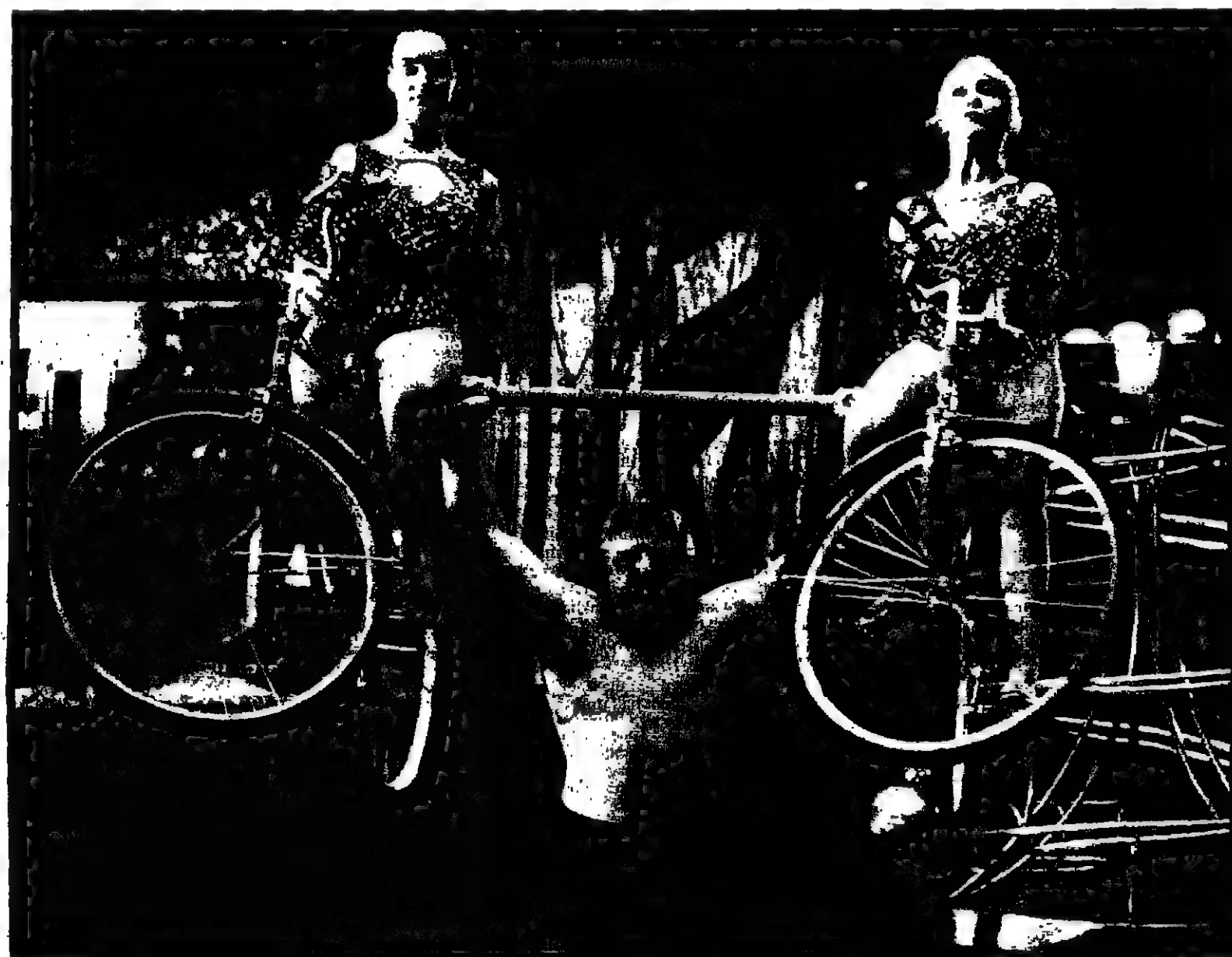
Confined to a wheelchair, he had plenty of time to think and for five years he turned himself into a guinea-pig, trying out different tests and exercises. To the surprise of the medical profession, it worked. After five years he took his first steps and two years later he was back to normal.

Dikul's phenomenal recovery and subsequent work at the centre is the subject of a Channel 4 *Short Stories* documentary next Wednesday. It is a recovery made all the more remarkable for happening in the Soviet Union, a deeply conservative country where the disabled were always discriminated against. Back then, says Dikul, there was simply no belief that so much time and money could be well spent. No one had really bothered to try before. Now attitudes have started to change. One symptom of that is that his centre is completely state-funded.

Dikul says: "Maybe I was too young and did not believe that I would not walk." Most of all, he was helped by the comradeship atmosphere of the circus. Dikul was orphaned at the age of three and the circus was his adoptive family. "It is my life, my air, my home, it is everything. It is what I live for."

Now almost 50, he has a family of his own but all of three of them work in the circus. His wife Ludmilla is a circus performer and his 15-year-old daughter, Anna, who studied dance with the Bolshoi Ballet, is now practising walking the tightrope. One of Dikul's favourite acts is to lift up both his wife and daughter on two bicycles attached together by a pole and pedalling madly in mid-air.

Dikul was already mentally planning to go back to the circus as he recovered the use of his body, and before long he was doing acrobatic motorcycling. "The only thing was that I could not go back to acrobatics because no medical commission would give me permission to go back up there



Heroic strength: one of Dikul's favourite acts is to lift up both his wife and daughter on two bicycles attached together by a pole

after an accident like that," he recalls. One of his most spectacular success stories, however, did manage to do exactly that. The man was a fellow acrobat, who had broken his spine and was unable to walk for 17 years — but he was back on the high wire after four years' treatment.

Banned from the air, Dikul became a circus strongman — and here his story really does become the stuff of legend. For he is now routinely referred to

exercise room, a large airy hall of flat beds attached to chains and contraptions of medieval complication. The room is full of bodies heaving, swaying and pulling.

Irina Koneva, a 39-year-old computer programmer, broke her spine when rock-climbing in the Crimea and has come to the centre for five hours a day for the past nine months. Although technically paralysed from the waist down, she said she could now walk with the aid of sticks.

"I still can't feel my legs," she says, laughing. "Only a little at the top." She adds that the atmosphere was very inspiring, there is a feeling of common endeavour.

"We can't promise to lift everyone on to their feet, but there will be improvements with everyone," says Dikul. There is no special secret to the treatment, just the use of more than a dozen types of therapy, including endless exercising, massage, laser treatment and physiotherapy. That, plus a very labour-intensive number of doctors and lots and lots of time. The main criticism levelled against the centre is that it is too expensive to run. One gets the impression that Dikul has shamed the authorities into stumping up the money.

Preparing to go back to the circus for a new season in the autumn, he is proud of a new feat. A seven-metre high swing rotates with a huge ball on it. The ball falls, Dikul catches it on his neck, juggles it from hand to hand and then sets it down. The ball opens and a woman steps out.

Then he invites members of the audience to try to lift the ball. Naturally it turns out to be too heavy for all of them. Before I went to the Dikul Centre I had always wondered why Russia was called the "land of miracles". Now I have an inkling.

Short Stories: Strongman is on Wednesday, August 14, Channel 4, 8.30pm

He has a very Russian aura — a kindly Rasputin

as the strongest man in Russia and he performs the kind of feats that make the only average mighty quail. In one stunt he juggles a 40kg ball like a Christmas bauble and then lightly catches it on the back of his neck. Best not to think how close it is to falling on a once-broken spine. Another trick (although trick is not the right word, as there is no deception involved) involves him supporting a Volvo estate car, weighing more than 1.5 tons, on his back.

His fame in Russia is such that therapy at the Dikul Centre, set in the grounds of an old palace in north Moscow, is now a minor Russian industry. There are 124,000 applications for treatment from 32 countries pending. Those who come are the disabled and the paralysed, especially those with broken spines, and the success rate is excellent. After intensive therapy, hundreds of people have got out of their wheelchairs and walked.

Dikul walks through the

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Guarding us against our government

Sue Cameron calls for a committee to oversee the constitution

Ruling Britannia is becoming an increasingly rickety business. Public disillusion with politicians of all parties; the scandals that have dulled Whitehall's golden reputation and the ease with which government avoids and evades Parliament's scrutiny have lent new urgency to the old question of who guards the guardians.

Those who have traditionally been the guardians of our unwritten constitution are no longer trusted with the task. Lord Justice Scott's inquiry into the exports to Iraq debacle destroyed our faith in that classical ideal. It showed ministers and mandarins behaving badly. It left no doubt that top civil servants and their political masters can act with such ruthlessness in covering up incompetence and misconduct as to make the public wonder if they are suited to guarding anything except their own reputations.

Perhaps the time has come to borrow an idea used by the Government itself when it wanted to tame the vested interests of nationwide industrial monopolies. In the 1980s the Conservatives gave us Ofgas, Ofwat and Ofel, with power to control industries such as gas and water. What Britain needs now is the equivalent of these, an Ofcon or office of the constitution, manned by people with the integrity, clout and experience to police the government machine.

The need for Ofcon was broached by Dr Geoffrey Marshall, Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, at an Oxford Research Group seminar on the changes needed after the Scott report. Dr Marshall's suggestion was a metaphor for the gaps in our constitutional safeguards that Scott exposed.

While nobody is demanding that a bunch of bureaucratic regulators be appointed to superintend Britain's constitutional arrangements, the idea of having a group of people who could fulfil such a role on a more ad hoc basis has some merit. But where to find such people? They already exist. The new guardians of Britain's constitution should be chosen from the eminent individuals who form the Privy Council.

The current list of some 450 Privy Counsellors is heavy with senior politicians of all parties, many of whom have left the political front line of the Commons. The list also includes senior judges and a sprinkling — no more — of former top civil servants. A small-scale standing committee of Privy Counsellors could be set up to look into the kind of constitutional black spots that seem to be occurring more and more often.

Such a committee could include representatives of all the main parties, provided none of the individuals were actually in office. The aim would be to set up a group of experienced, high calibre people, remote now from the political fray, whose judgment on constitutional matters would command widespread respect. They would be of the government machine but not longer within it.

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, who as Sir Robert Armstrong was Cabinet Secretary, reckons that such an idea could work precisely because it would involve practitioners in the art of government. "It could be useful in situations like that of the Labour Government in March 1974, when Harold Wilson had no overall majority," he says. "If Mr Wilson hadn't won the vote on the Loyal Address, there would have been a question as to whether he had the right to demand another election or whether he would have had to resign and give someone else

a chance. He won the vote, so it didn't arise but that is the kind of issue that could be referred to a Privy Council committee."

A Privy Council committee on constitutional questions would fit smoothly into the existing British system without the furore that would be caused by attempts to introduce a written constitution, which is so alien to the British tradition.

There are already precedents for ad hoc Privy Council committees and standing ones. The committee that scrutinises honours lists is a Privy Council committee. The Franks committee, which reported on the Falklands War, was a Privy Council committee. Sir Patrick Nairne, a senior civil servant at the Ministry of Defence who later became Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, was made a Privy Counsellor to enable him to sit on the Franks committee.

Lord Armstrong — who, amazingly, is not himself a Privy Counsellor — believes a constitutional committee could take an advisory role and make recommendations on issues referred to it. He is much less certain about a Privy Council committee taking the initiative and insisting on launching its own investigations.

"That," says Lord Armstrong with the restraint that is a hallmark of great mandarins, "might be more difficult for a Prime Minister to imagine. Having to remit upwards to Privy Counsellors is something a Prime Minister might not find plausible."

Dr Marshall says it would be "political science fiction" to suggest that governments would happily submit their actions to the scrutiny of a powerful arbitrator. He thinks that a Privy Council committee on constitutional questions might be acceptable on an advisory basis, but that deciding what to remit to it would be tricky. Yet with the Commons Public Service Committee flexing its muscles and demanding that a record be kept of ministers who refuse to answer to select committees, MPs could appeal to the Privy Council direct. Dr Marshall suggests that issues such as ministerial accountability — or the lack of it — could be referred to the Privy Council if a certain number of MPs demanded it.

Clearly, ministers would be wary of such a scheme no matter which party was in power. Governments guilty of misconduct, mismanagement or maladministration want the mess covered up, not subjected to impartial investigation. That is the problem. These days even the Leader of the Opposition seems determined not to be held accountable by members of his own party — a tendency that bodes ill for the conduct of government under any Labour administration.

Yet a Privy Council committee on constitutional issues might be useful even if it had only advisory powers. And it might quickly attain the kind of stature that would make it hard for governments to say no if it were to volunteer to look into matters which they would prefer to keep hidden. The standing of the law lords, former ministers and former top civil servants who would sit on it would also make it difficult for governments to plead national security or intelligence matters as reasons for refusing to co-operate. Above all, the very existence of a Privy Council committee ready to consider the conduct of any government would act as a deterrent to the shenanigans of overweening ministers.

Anatole Kaletsky argues that less of our money need be processed by officials, only to be given back

Cut taxes by the easiest method

I have a modest proposal for whichever party wins the next election. Both want to reduce public spending to below 40 per cent of national income. I can cut taxes and public spending at a stroke by £5 billion a year. Over time, I could reduce the State's role to an Asian-style 30 per cent of gross domestic product without hurting a single public service.

Let us start with a figure cited last week in a study published by the conservative sociologist Patricia Morgan on the madness of Britain's present system of child support. The Government spends £7 billion a year on paying child benefit. Until 1977, the Government paid no child benefit; instead, it gave parents tax allowances. Ms Morgan shows that nearly all parents are worse off with today's child benefits than the old tax allowances — and argues that average families have suffered big losses from Tory tax reforms. True, but there is an even more important point.

Today's child benefits add £7 billion to public spending and therefore to taxes; but the old tax allowances achieved the same ends by reducing taxes. If it is possible to achieve exactly the same social result either by cutting taxes and public spending or by raising them, the right choice seems self-evident: abolish child benefit and replace it

with a tax credit. (The tax credit would be smaller than the full £7 billion, because payments would still have to be made to the small minority of parents who now pay less income tax than they get back in benefits, as well as to those who live off welfare.) Similar principles could be applied to other far bigger spending programmes: low-income housing, public transport and even state pensions could all be largely refinanced by converting cash outlays into tax allowances.

Yet in Britain today such painless surgery to the public finances is unthinkable. All respectable politicians agree that the State should recycle billions in child benefits, instead of leaving these same billions in parents' pockets. Why?

Forget the pious claims about defending the interests of women and children against feckless men. Arrangements to pay a tax credit directly to mothers instead of

fathers would be no more costly than the present administration of child benefits. The real reason why politicians think that paying benefits is better than remitting taxes is that the Treasury says so.

Treasury dogma opposes all tax allowances. Its fiscal credo is that taxes should be "transparent" and "neutral". Neutrality means that taxes should not distort incentives: if one person wants to raise a child, while another prefers to raise a pony, the State should not discriminate between them, at least not through the tax system. Transparency requires the exact cost of child support to be visible in the public accounts. On both these grounds, it is better for governments to subsidise children directly with cash benefits than by tax relief.

But wait. Is the Government really "subsidising" children if it allows their parents to keep more of the money they themselves have

earned? The Treasury says "yes", and describes the few special allowances it has not yet extirpated from the British tax system as "tax expenditures". Consider what this implies. To justify the idea that a tax remission is equivalent to a government subsidy means appealing to a doctrine favoured by King John before Magna Carta: the view that all of a nation's wealth ultimately belongs to the State. Whatever the subjects are allowed to keep is then a gift from the sovereign.

In any other political framework, the Treasury view is absurd. In psychological and political terms, there is a huge difference between letting parents pay less tax and giving them a state handout. Politicians used to understand this. Socialists wanted child benefits to foster in the middle class a sense of social solidarity and dependence on the State. Conservatives opposed them to encourage self-reliance.

Over the years, however, the political psychology of taxes and public spending has been reversed, though few politicians have noticed. Today, it is the socialists who must minimise the psychological burden of public spending, while the Tories try to exaggerate the size of the State. The surest way for Labour to win this argument would be by turning welfare transfers back into tax allowances. The prize for success would be huge.

By whittling away transfers and letting people keep more of their own money, a Labour government could make Britain feel less highly taxed. And with every reduction in the ratio of taxes and public spending to national income, there would be more hope of raising the funds to pay for improvements in the genuine public services which promote the sense of community the Tories have neglected: universal health and education, public safety, culture, scientific research.

As Nye Bevan once said, "Socialism is the language of priorities." Today the priorities for Labour should be clear: fewer benefit payments, lower taxes and a consequently greater willingness to spend on genuine public services.

Patricia Morgan's *Are Families Affordable?* is published by the Centre for Policy Studies (£5.95).

How we dished our values

Imperceptibly, disgracefully, we have lost our reverence for the unborn

Thousands of frozen embryos are being destroyed; meanwhile a healthy woman of 28 has asked to have one healthy twin killed in her womb because she says she cannot cope with it. Each of these has provoked acres of breast-beating controversy. Yet nothing new has happened, nothing whatsoever. The difference between these events and those of every day is in presentation. Any moral shift which has taken place has done so by gradual attrition, over decades. There is an uncomfortable but irresistible parallel with the sudden public panic about intensive farming: nothing is new except that more people have noticed. Like a drunk waking up in a particularly sordid gutter, we have suddenly seen in a flash of clarity what the headless years have brought us to.

Take the matter of the embryos, currently the subject of emotional coverage by media which have hitherto barely questioned in-vitro fertilisation. IVF is widely accepted as a miracle cure for sub-fertility; it administers to women what is regarded as the "right" to have a child. Yet anybody who has watched IVF scientists at work knows that every day they confront saucers full of fertilised eggs, select the best and dump the rest. Doctors also selectively reduce multiple IVF pregnancies. The current disposal just happens to be larger in scale.

Or take the case, exposed on Sunday, of a fit single mother, pregnant with twins and horrified at the prospect of looking after two new babies (any mother must briefly empathise with that). So (and here the empathy vanishes) she wants to have one killed. This is not illegal; the head of ethics at the BMA, Dr Vivienne Nathanson, points out that although it may cause "instinctive horror", it raises no new ethical issues. "It is exactly the same as any other abortion at 16 weeks."

She is right. Abortions are carried out for far more frivolous reasons every day. Pregnancies are terminated because of broken relationships, because of family pressures, because they have arisen from infidelity, because of career plans, even because of holidays. The option to terminate may be taken without serious counselling

or opposition by any woman who is panicking or depressed. Abortion on demand is commonplace: the flip side of the "right" to have a child is the "right" not to bear one to term. The values of consumer choice are routinely applied to childbearing, and most of the time we seem happy to live with that historically unprecedented attitude. It is when the facts are suddenly dramatised for us — when we wake up in the gutter, as the old song goes, and the pig gets up and walks away — that we cringe at ourselves. The same happened over sales of

resistible parallel with the sudden public panic about intensive farming: nothing is new except that more people have noticed. Like a drunk waking up in a particularly sordid gutter, we have suddenly seen in a flash of clarity what the headless years have brought us to.

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When did we start to see this as less than sacrosanct?

degenerative illnesses might be accelerated.

Most young women, even those of us who hated the idea, accepted such arguments. It was reinforced by the repulsive arrogance of many "pro-life" spokesmen, who spoke of young women as mere containers for the next generation (it may be hard for male readers to understand just how angry this makes us, but watch next time a husband snatches the glass of wine from his pregnant wife's hand). On the other hand, we were equally queasy at the feminist triumphalism when the Act was passed. Abortion, our secret female selves told us, was nothing to be triumphant about. Not ever.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that for a few years the requirement for there to be real psychological risk to the mother was taken seriously. Girls told of distressing interviews with tough doctors and psychiat-

rists. Later, there developed a network of "sympathetic" ones who would sign on demand. The better-off you were, the easier it became. Young men of sophistication knew the right number for a girl in trouble to ring; young men of means paid up gracefully. Down in the NHS, it was harder, for longer, to get an abortion on social grounds.

This was so obviously unfair that it gradually changed. After another decade, the custom and practice was that except in a few diaphanous regions, any woman who asked for an abortion could get one. The provision on psychological damage proved an enormous loophole: after all in consumer society at large a conviction was growing that not getting what you want is dreadfully bad for you. Health service abortions still took a long time to arrange, and were the more distressing for it; this led to women's campaigns for prompt-

ness, which further distracted us from what we were actually doing. Moreover, sometimes even the earliest abortions left women in a worse psychological state than they had ever expected. Many, now middle-aged, still privately mark each year the day that would have been their first child's birthday.

In the climate created by ever easier abortion, it was unlikely that the "selective reductions" and discarding of fertilised eggs in the new IVF process would cause much open disquiet. Privately and individually, a lot of couples rejected this route because of an instinctive reverence for the mystery of the embryo and its link to the act of love. Many more quietly rejected the idea of discarding sperm or eggs, out of an equally instinctive reverence for the idea of the natural family. One couple I know rejected artificial insemination by donor on those grounds, but later adopted a baby without qualms because they simply felt "more honest" that way. Others overcame reluctance and took the new artificial routes to parenthood simply because they had no other chance of it: ironically, many were people who would have happily adopted back in the days when abortion was illegal and babies were plentiful.

So a compassionate, embarrassed atmosphere of unwillingness to hurt anybody's feelings has led us to our present pass. For years it has been enormously difficult for liberal, kindly people to express qualms about the way we treat new life. The propaganda of "pro-life" organisations is loathsome: what good does it do to torment vulnerable women with horror pictures? Churchmen have either been fuzzily forgiving or patriarchally insulting. Moralists who would never lift a finger to help a single mother have thundered unhelpfully at women who abort because of their dread of that precarious state.

Only a few organisations have taken the fully Christian route, welcoming the unwillingly pregnant, offering praise and sympathy when they decide to go through with the birth, looking after them in the months of helplessness, enabling them either to care for their babies or give them for adoption and to bear the resulting grief. The majority of us blank out the truth about how cavalierly we treat the unborn, and how illogical it is to set an arbitrary date for the birth of the soul.

But it may be time we looked more steadily at it all. Otherwise the only sure thing that the years to come will bring is practices even more horrible, even more unnatural, than any we have seen yet.

Kiss and yell

THIS WEEK'S *Hello!* marks a sharp shift in the magazine's previously fawning attitude to the Princess of Wales. It contains an interview with Shirley Hewitt, the mother of James Hewitt, the man who kissed and told on the Princess. Yet only recently Eduardo Sanchez, the courtly Spaniard who owns the magazine, bought up a set of photographs of the Princess topos on holiday so that no one could publish them.

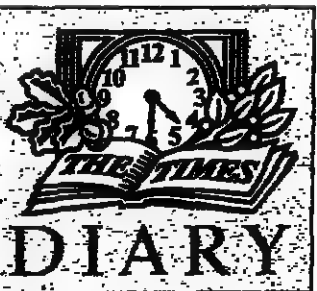
The Hewitt interview, however, has been published by *Hello!*'s Editor, Maggie Koumi, while Sanchez is on holiday on his Spanish farm. It would be surprising if Sanchez had been consulted. From his record, it is not likely he would approve. He is a man of traditional values for whom the likes of Hewitt rank low on the evolutionary scale. Maggie Koumi's office declined to comment on the interview or the state of play with Señor Sanchez.

It was James Hewitt's PR woman, Caroline Farr, who organised the interview, for which Mrs Hewitt is said to have received several thousand pounds. Both

James Hewitt and Miss Farr were present throughout Mrs Hewitt's interview. Despite the marshmallow content of most of the questioning, the Hewitt faction found the first journalist sent by *Hello!* to be unsympathetic, so another one was called for who duly completed the task.



"Her at 26 is phoning to report you"



Simple initiative rather than a haemorrhage of investment may be the answer to Britain's Olympic problems if Steve Backley is anything to go by. The silver medalist in the javelin prepared for Atlanta's fabled humidity by keeping his central heating on full blast every night for months before the Games, even during the summer.

Huff and puff

AMERICAN POLITICS is bracing itself for seismic waves this week with the publication of *Bare Knuckles and Backrooms: My Life in American Politics*, the memoirs of Ed Rollins, one of the toughest political strategists of the past three decades. One of his main targets is

Arianna Huffington, the Greek-born writer turned American political wife, who has the sort of vertical thrust normally seen only on rockets and Turkish weightlifters.

Mrs Huffington, a former president of the Cambridge Union, is married to Michael Huffington, a blank space with very deep pockets who ran for the Senate in 1994. Rollins, who worked on the campaign, describes her as the most cunning person he has ever met. "Scheming" and "ruthless".

He also describes a conversation in which Michael Huffington explains his reluctance to release his tax returns during the campaign — "Arianna will figure out how much I am worth and try to spend it all."

All's well

THESE are happy days in Bridlington, Yorkshire, where Nicholas Cunliffe-Lister, the former son-in-law of Viscount Whitelaw, has married his mistress. Before his divorce, Cunliffe-Lister lived with his wife on the estate of his brother, the Earl of Swinton.

He was then discovered by a tabloid paper to be playing mid-week hookie with one Pamela Sykes in a

bungalow in Bridlington. Separation soon followed, and now C-L has made an honest woman of Miss Sykes by marrying her at Bridlington register office.

His ex-wife, Susan, meanwhile, spends much of her time at Burton Agnes Hall, the £10 million estate inherited by her son Simon at the age of 12. "We are just glad we are officially married," says Mrs Cunliffe-Lister II.

The European Union Youth Orchestra, concluding a three-week



Don't tell Arianna

tour with a Prom at the Albert Hall on Saturday, left the dressing room knee-deep in facial fuzz. Male members of the orchestra had competed to grow the most effective goatee beard during the tour, only to shave them off in the interval — to the surprise of the promenaders.

Bottom line

BEST AVOID Seaview on the Isle of Wight for the next few days. The Bottomleys are in town. Dragged into endless Blythessque japes by Matron Virginia, the sprawling clan is annually to be found posing awkwardly for the cameras as their leader does her best to jolly them all along.

Lunching at the Royal Yacht Squadron yesterday, the Secretary of State for National Heritage was without her husband, with whom she will sail tomorrow. Predictably enough, he was back at home rehearsing for his part in the family production of *HMS Pinafore*.

Fortune never favoured British Semen Exports Limited, a company set up some time ago as a subsidiary of Avoncroft. It did not last long, and for the past few years has



An unfortunate acronym

lain dormant without ever being wound up. As David Matthews, the marketing manager of Avoncroft, puts it, "No one would use a company called BSE these days would they?"

P.H.S



LOSING OUT

The genuinely needy are the victims of benefit fraud

It is only with the greatest reluctance that the State should encourage its citizens to take an active interest in the private affairs of others. An aversion to informing the Government about one's neighbour's actions is more than a matter of schoolboy honour. It is a natural recognition that a free society is built on respect for autonomy and a reluctance to prejudice. However, the Department of Social Security's initiative to encourage the public to report suspected benefit fraud is not just a legitimate but a necessary exception. Benefit fraud is theft which hits the most vulnerable hardest. It is a crime which costs billions and should be reported with all the zeal any citizen might apply to a burglar in his neighbour's home.

Some £6 billion of the swollen social security budget is believed to be consumed by criminal fraud each year. The Secretary of State, Peter Lilley, hopes a national telephone hotline will encourage anonymous callers to alert his department to fraudsters. The proposed hotline has already been piloted in Thameside, Tunbridge Wells, Hull, Blackburn and Burnley.

Respect for privacy may stay the hand of some callers but they should realise that they are the victims of every act of undetected fraud. Most frauds are carried out not by the needy squeezing the system but by organised criminals, many from abroad.

A culture of entitlement inculcated by years of welfare and encouraged by the Left has contributed to a morally confused approach towards benefit. Even now there is a reluctance among some on the Left to condemn benefit fraud as one might any straightforward theft. There is a persistent attitude that the State is an infinitely generous philanthropist which should not concern itself too greatly when sticky hands dip into its deep pockets.

Such moral laziness is apparent in the reaction of opposition politicians to the

establishment of the hotline. It has been as depressing as it is confused. The Liberal Democrat spokesman Archy Kirkwood argued: "Fraud detection is taking far too high a degree of priority over entitlement to benefits." Is there any other instance where Mr Kirkwood would argue that detecting crime takes "too high a degree of priority"? Mr Kirkwood should realise that it is only by detecting, and stopping fraud, that the State can afford generous benefits.

Labour's Social Security spokesman Henry McLeish worries that "totally innocent people could be the victim of a visit by officials". Mr McLeish's reluctance to see the State tread too heavily might endear him to the libertarian Left but it is hardly the voice of New Labour, the taxpayers' friend. An inconvenient interview which the genuinely innocent need not fear is a small price to pay if it helps recover some of the billions stolen from those who dutifully pay their taxes.

Moreover, the evidence of pilot schemes shows that not only does rigorous scrutiny of callers ensure that very few innocent people are investigated. It suggests that many guilty who might otherwise escape detection can be apprehended. Five schemes received 13,000 calls and half of those supplied information that allowed suspect claims to be questioned.

The hotline will not, in itself, stop fraud. The work of the Social Security Select Committee, and its respected chairman, the Labour MP Frank Field, points to ever more sophisticated subversion of the National Insurance system by increasingly resourceful criminals. It will require dedicated detective work to stop crime at that level. But the scale of the problem should be a spur to action, not a cause for despair. Every fraud halted by the hotline will ensure that more money is available to maintain a civilised level of provision for the poor and insure each citizen against life's vicissitudes.

CROATIAN ROULETTE

Handle Tudjman with an iron fist in an iron glove

President Tudjman has consistently outwitted European and United Nations negotiators. With his eye still set on the creation of a Greater Croatia, the former communist, turned nationalist, leader has never accepted the restrictions or the logic of the Dayton agreement he signed last year. He has refused to co-operate with war crimes investigators. He has flouted the election of a new Mayor of Zagreb. He has refused to allow Krajina Serb refugees back to their homes. Now he and his fellow Croats in Mostar seem intent on scuttling the elections in the divided Bosnian city, thus undermining next month's general elections in Bosnia and the democratic edifice on which the post-war settlement is supposed to be built.

America, whose long semi-detachment from the Bosnian imbroglio encouraged Mr Tudjman in the opportunist pursuit of his aims, has now acted with commendable firmness. President Clinton summoned him to Washington last week to warn him that international patience is running out. Unless the Mostar Croats accept the local election result and the plan to reunify the shattered city, international willingness to help the rebuilding of Bosnia will fade, along with the chances for peace.

Mr Tudjman has consistently maintained that he has no control over the Bosnian Croats. Mr Clinton and Sir Martin Garrod, the weary EU administrator in Mostar, know that this is a lie. From the outset, Mr Tudjman has encouraged local Croat opposition to the Croat-Muslim Federation. He has given the Bosnian Croats political, military and economic support, openly and covertly, and made them dependent on his largesse. Wherever possible, the Croat

separatists in Bosnia have been encouraged to identify with Croatia, flying the state's flag, using its currency and even forming themselves into the Croatian Democratic Union — the same name as President Tudjman's own political party. He can decisively influence the Mostar Croats: either urging them to compromise with their Muslim neighbours or, as has been sadly apparent, stiffening their intransigence.

If, after numerous last chances and the extension of deadlines, the EU concludes that it has no further role in helping Mostar function as a city, the pullout will deal a mortal blow to next month's elections. Nationalist groups have little time for the democratic process: they are in no mood to respect any result that goes against their demagoguery. Without credible elections, a withdrawal of the Nato Peace Implementation Force will leave a power vacuum that, in Balkan tradition, will be filled by extremists of ill will. It was not for this that American negotiators cajoled the reluctant leaders to sign the Dayton accords.

President Tudjman has argued that, with the end of hostilities in former Yugoslavia, Croatia must now be fully accepted by its European neighbours. He is demanding aid, investment, generous EU association arrangements and the admission of Croatia to the Council of Europe. None of this would be justified if he continues, by proxy, to pursue his nationalist agenda in Bosnia. It was only in the nick of time that EU governments reversed a short-sighted decision to admit Croatia to the Council of Europe. Mr Tudjman is a hard man, who has the political instincts of an autocrat. He needs to be addressed in similar language.

KEEP THE LID ON

A policeman's lot is not a hatty one

The British Tourist Authority wants the Metropolitan Police to keep its helmets on. The bobby in Victorian uniform is one of the national symbols, as distinctive as Big Ben, Tower Bridge and the Queen Mother. Only tourists still refer to London policemen as bobbies. For according to the BTA, a tourist knows that this must be Britain as much by the quaint uniform of its policemen as by the mercenary squalor of Heathrow, the traffic jams and the exaggerated accents of the natives, especially as heard on television.

The BTA's opinion coincides with a national review of police uniform. In a fashionable exercise of consultation, policemen are being asked whether they want to retain their helmets as suitable headgear. Their opinions will be taken into account, as far as any such opinions count in any such poll of human resources. No other police force wears such Ruritanian lids. Younger policemen feel antique in them, and police-women are mercifully excused them. There are no longer the hats worn by glamorous heroines of television crime-busting series.

The British policeman's helmet was designed in 1863, when most of the senior police officers were former military men. Their helmets were modelled on the Prussian pickelhaube, though forces such as the City of London preferred a Trojan helmet with a ridge down the back. And provincial forces went in for even more exotic headgear such as kepis and shakos.

The advantage of the helmet is that its layers of rabbit-skin felt and cork protect the

head from battery, though modern villains attack the police in nastier, more cowardly ways. And the protection given by a police helmet is a matter of dispute. The helmet, like the bearskin worn by the Guards, makes its wearer more formidable — or at least taller. And it distinguishes the official police from private security guards, who wear big flat hats because they have big flat heads. The Scottish police finally abandoned helmets for caps with diced hatband in the 1950s. This enabled wits to ask: "If you are a police officer, why are you wearing that black-and-white hatband?" To which the stock answer was: "Just a routine check, sir", before an adjournment to the police station.

The disadvantages of the helmet are that they are quaint, preserving the top-hatted glories of the Bow Street Runners. Helmets fall off, not only when grabbed as souvenirs by equally old-fashioned Eggs, Beans and Crumpets on Boat Race Night, but also by militant protesters at a modern demo. They are so ergonomically ill-designed that they have to be removed and replaced when getting into and out of a car.

Nevertheless, on this matter the tourists are right. Certain things are typical of London: red double-decker buses and telephone boxes, black taxi cabs and policemen in legionary helmets. They are efficient as well as peculiar. The tourists are right about them and the managerial modernisers are wrong. The policemen of England, if they are as conservative as they seem, will vote to keep their heads under their helmets.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Swords into ploughshares: views on the jury's verdict

From Mr John Tracy Kelly

Sir, I disagree with your leader of August 1, "Crimes of conscience", on the acquittal of members of the Ploughshares group charged with criminal damage to a Hawk fighter jet (report, July 31).

That the ladies in question were good, courageous Christians should not be allowed to obscure the fact that they also had a good defence in law and that the verdict was probably the only rational one which a jury could have reached.

By Section 9 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 "any murder or manslaughter whether within the Queen's dominions or without [my italics]... committed by any subject of Her Majesty... may be dealt with, inquired of, tried, determined and punished... in England...".

By Section 13 (1) of the Criminal Law Act 1967, "A person may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime...". Obviously the greater the crime being prevented, the more force is reasonable. Disabling or damaging a lifeless object must be more reasonable than, say, inflicting bodily harm on a person. When such a defence is raised the prosecution must disprove it beyond reasonable doubt.

Notwithstanding the recent non-decision of Sir Richard Scott (report, February 16, 1996), the Attorney-General should consider prosecuting the English companies involved in the sales of arms or ancillary products, for counselling or procuring the offences of murder or manslaughter.

I read that injunctions have been obtained and served on the accused. One hopes that consideration was, or will be, given to the equitable principles of clean hands and doing equity — eg, by cross-understandings from British Aerospace not to sell aircraft to anyone who might use them other than in self-defence, or in any case where there might be any chance of the company closing its eyes to the ultimate use of these weapons.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TRACY KELLY,
107 Ledbury Road, W11,
August 1.

From Mr Richard Evans

Sir, I was surprised and delighted at the not-guilty verdict on the four women who smashed up a Hawk jet fighter plane in the interests of preventing the greater crime of genocide in East Timor.

Could this principle be applied in other areas? For instance, I strongly

believe there are too many cars on the roads these days, and that they are killing thousands through deaths on the road and pollution.

In the interests of stemming the flood of new cars that has added to road danger and pollution levels since August 1, could I, with impunity, have got into the Ford factory at Dagenham with a hammer and wreaked my worst?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD EVANS (Co-ordinator,
Merion Cycling Campaign),
29 Somerset Avenue, SW20,
August 5.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, If a Liverpool jury can find three women not guilty of causing criminal damage simply because they pleaded political motives there must be serious doubts about the jury system as it is at present constituted. Although jury cases do not set legal precedents, the decision to acquit these women will encourage others to carry out acts of

vandalism and even terrorism. I had believed one of the aims of the law was to discourage such activities.

The outcome of this case is the inevitable result of abandoning any selection of jurors on the basis of suitability, and of assuming that any citizen, no matter how ignorant and irresponsible, can undertake this role. It highlights the need for reform of the jury system before it falls into total disrepute.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST,
Delirya,
Castle Morris, Nr Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire,
July 31.

From Mrs D. M. Forbes

Sir, Sincere idealists like the Ploughshares women would have less cause to express themselves by extreme measures if they received more regular coverage by the media. The Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), for example, has been using "sound arguments and good organisation" as a means to influence public opinion for many years, with painfully little result and scant media coverage.

Most of the public are unaware of the Government's complicity in the genocide in East Timor. I frequently meet people who are astounded to learn of the extent to which the Government subsidises the arms trade or what a high proportion of credit it takes up.

The message put over by this case is that one highly risky and courageous action is worth years of campaigning.

The remedy lies in your hands. Give us a fairer deal in presenting our views to the public, and thus bringing pressure to bear on the Government, and there may be less need for extreme measures.

Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY FORBES
(Member, CAAT),
59 Wheelers Lane,
Kings Heath, Birmingham B13,
August 5.

From Mr Rupert Ridge

Sir, I am politically against paying income tax. I am deeply committed. May I burn down the offices of my Inspector of Taxes? I fear he may be about to send me a tax demand.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT RIDGE,
Brockley Elm House,
Brockley, Backwell,
North Somerset,
August 1.

East Timor victims

From the Director of Amnesty International UK

Sir, In your leading article of August 1, "Crimes of conscience", you cite Amnesty International's estimate of the number of East Timorese killed by the Indonesian Government since 1975 as 200,000. This figure does not relate only to East Timorese killed by the security forces; it also includes those who have died of starvation or disease since Indonesia invaded in 1975. It represents a third of the population of East Timor.

This clarification does not detract, of course, from the depressing human rights situation in Indonesia as a whole: there have been human rights violations on a staggering scale since 1965 in which thousands of citizens have been killed, political and criminal prisoners have been routinely tortured, and thousands of people have been imprisoned following show trials, solely for their peaceful political or religious views.

The violations are continuing and unless concerted domestic and international pressure is applied on Jakarta, there can be little prospect of real improvement.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BULL,
Director,
Amnesty International UK,
99-119 Rosebery Avenue, EC1,
August 1.

The sound and the fury

From Dr William M. Foreman

Sir, In my retirement I am a projectionist at a very well equipped independent cinema on the coast of Suffolk. In the past 13 years I can only recall one occasion when a film distributor has suggested that we should use a particular sound volume for a particular film (letter, July 29).

Every cinema, of course, has its volume control knob. One of its uses is to adjust the level according to the size and age group of the audience. A "full house" requires a higher setting than a nearly empty one because people absorb much more sound than empty seats do, and more mature audiences do not tolerate the loud, impressive sounds that many much younger people seem to enjoy.

When we first open any programme we go down and listen with the audience and then adjust the volume to a level that we judge to be acceptable to the majority.

We have to try to set our volume high enough to make speech easily intelligible but at the same time not so high that everybody is deafened by all the other sound effects. It is not always easy.

Yours sincerely,
BILL FOREMAN,
110 High Street,
Wickham Market,
Woodbridge, Suffolk,
August 1.

Have no fear

From Lieutenant-Commander H. F. Norman, RN (ret)

Sir, I hasten to assure Mr Roger Cookson (letter, July 23; see also letters, July 25, 27) that his dentist's waiting room is by no means alone in having a Bible available for patients.

It is a part of the ministry of the "Gleasons International" in this country to place, where possible, Bibles in the waiting rooms of both doctors and dentists.

In the south east Hampshire area, at least three waiting rooms have Bibles, placed with the permission of the practitioners.

Yours sincerely,
H. F. NORMAN,
81 The Brow,
Widley, Waterlooville, Hampshire,
August 2.

From Mr Michael Austin

Sir, I keep a copy of *Antique Dental Instruments* in my waiting room and emergency oxygen in the surgery.

Yours reassuringly,
MICHAEL AUSTIN
(Dental practitioner),
The Panicles,
Shirley Drive, Hove, East Sussex,
August 2.

Civil Service recruiting

From Lord Taylor of Gryfe

Sir, On July 25, the last day of the parliamentary session, a matter of considerable constitutional importance was discussed in the House of Lords. Unfortunately it was not widely reported. It concerned the decision of the Government to privatise the Recruitment and Assessment Service (RAS) of the Civil Service.

Our Civil Service is the envy of many countries with its reputation for independence and integrity, qualities which are fundamental to the functioning of a democratic society. The RAS has played an important role in recruiting good people to work in the service of the State, and is profitable and efficient.

In March, Earl Howe, speaking for the Government, told the Lords: "The RAS has a well established reputation as a centre of excellence."

In a subsequent debate the House of Lords called on the Government to abandon the privatisation scheme, voting 124 to 64 against the policy. An all-party select committee under the

chairmanship of Lord Justice Slynn of Hadley was then appointed to hear and examine evidence. This was almost overwhelmingly opposed to RAS privatisation, and the committee reported unanimously that the Government case had not been made.

Giving evidence to the committee, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, could only justify his proposal by saying that privatisation was a principle of his party's philosophy. The Government made clear on July 25 that it would ignore the views of the Lords.

This has important implications for the future of Civil Service recruitment since it will now be handled by an outside body concerned with profit for its shareholders and will lose its public service ethos.

The decision also makes clear that in pursuit of party dogma the Government has shown contempt for the House of Lords and its important role as a revising chamber.

Sincerely,
TAYLOR OF GRYFE,
House of Lords,
August 1.

Tube strike

From Mr Hans-Hubert Schönmeler

Sir, Your leading article "Down the Tube" (July 29) reminded me of a news item which I read fifty years ago. There was a transport strike in Tokyo and the Japanese workers sorted things out very simply: they continued to run the service normally, so as not to inconvenience the general public, but they refused to collect any fares.

Yours faithfully,
HANS-HUBERT SCHÖNMELE,
Savage Club,
Whitehall Place, SW1,
July 29.

Adjournment in Ulster

From Sir Kenneth Corley

Sir, So those petty politicians of Northern Ireland who have accepted the task of constructing a formula to bring peace to the Province have reached an unanimous decision. It is to go away on holiday for six weeks (report, July 30). While Londonderry burns, perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH CORLEY,
4 Abbey Farm,
St Bees, Cumbria,
July 31.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Post mortem on Atlanta failings

From Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith

Sir, Whilst I share the disappointment expressed by so many in our achievements at the Olympic Games in Atlanta (leading article, August 5), I am concerned at the reasons being given in the press and the laying of blame with the Government.

It is a fact of life that our Olympic sportsmen and women compete at a disadvantage since many countries allocate far greater resources to the training of their elite competitors. Having said that, the very considerable cost of sending our athletes and the all-important support staff to, and accommodating them at, their training camps and the Games was met by a sponsorship programme and a national appeal to industry and the general public.

In due course there will doubtless be a post mortem. I suspect that one of the factors will be the running down of sports activity in schools. Whatever the outcome of that debate, it should be understood that it is not due to lack of funding for our presence at the Games themselves.

Yours faithfully,
G. MAITLAND SMITH (Chairman,
1996 British Olympic Appeal),
100 Park Lane, W1,
August 5.

From Mrs Doreen Davie

Sir, As a doting grandparent, I have attended many sports days in various schools over the last two decades, and have seen all competitive spirit knocked out of our children. No child was allowed to win or lose a race, and sports days are often no more than a pointless charade. Throwing money at the problem now will do little to restore the thrill of competition or the will to win.

Yours faithfully,
DOREEN DAVIE,
Oreaga Cottage,
High Street, Silvertown, Exeter,
August 4.

From Dr John E. Cordwell

Sir, Your report today that had the Soviet Union still existed it would have topped the table with 114 gold, silver and bronze medals pales into insignificance against the tally for the EU if it had entered as a single country — 218 by my reckoning.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CORDWELL,
Greenlea, Haw Street,
Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire,
August 5.

From Professor J. N. Murrell

Sir, Instead of spending £100 million or so of our lottery money on sports facilities, would it not be better value for money to buy in a few more foreign sports people: another Canadian or South African tennis star, for example. Can we not find someone to marry a Russian gymnast or hurdler?

I am, of course, just using the same argument as is used against spending more on basic science and engineering, ie, it is cheaper to buy it in at a later stage from those countries foolish enough to spend their money that way.

Yours etc,
JOHN MURRELL (Dean),
The School of Chemistry,
Physics and Environmental Science,
University of Sussex,
Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex,
August 5.

Olympic hurdles

From Mr Ian Harragan

Sir, Mr Alwyn James (letter, August 1) should be careful, when talking to his Martian friends, not to confuse high hurdling with show jumping. Look at it in terms of the object being to beat one's competitors to a line 110 metres away, encountering ten obstacles on the way, and it begins to make sense. Personally, I think that going through the damn things rather than over them only serves to increase the difficulty of the task.

Yours faithfully,
IAN HARRAGAN,
56a Gibson Square, Islington, N1,
August 1.

Healthy living

From Mr F. M. Pert

Sir, "Sardines... ought to be available only on prescription" (report, August 2). Please do not encourage a cash-strapped Government to charge me £5.50 for a favourite 33p snack.

On the other hand I would actively encourage the researchers to find similar medicinal qualities in smoked salmon or caviar.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK PERT,
Brook House,
3 Craig Walk, Windermere, Cumbria,
August 2.

From Mr Robert Twyford

Sir, Is the energy I am using to write to you generated by excess vitamin B12 in the sardines I had for lunch, or by an allergic reaction to the recent outbreak of nonsense on this subject?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT TWYFORD,
Linden Lea,
Tuesley Lane, Godalming, Surrey,
August 2.

Credit union ardour puts banks in their place

By BRIAN COLLETT

OWNERS of small businesses in Lancashire and Cumbria have set up a credit union to give better terms than the high street banks.

The regional group of the Federation of Small Businesses is operating the credit union, offering services to any of its 3,000 members.

A credit union can be formed by a group whose members have a common bond and make monthly contributions. In this case the bond is membership of the federation's Lancashire and Cumbria region, but in other cases it could be membership of a village hall or being employed by the same company.

Many business owners in the region had become dissatisfied with high interest rates on bank loans and short repayment periods, and disliked having to risk their homes as collateral.

Ken DeVonald, the federation's spokesman, said that businesses were attracted to the idea of a credit union by the legal limit of a 12.68 annual percentage rate on loans, made possible partly because the union is owned by its members and does not pay shareholders.

Neil Daws, its treasurer, said: "For many years the self-employed and small business owners have complained at the way banks have treated them."

"We know that credit unions can sometimes cut the cost of borrowing. The credit union may also give a better dividend to those members who wish to save."

The Lancashire and Cumbria credit union has been two years in the making. "Now it will take two or three months to take off," said Mr DeVonald.

It could be the first of many in the federation. Members in the neighbouring northeast England region are already showing an interest.

Britain's first credit union was formed in Skelmersdale, Lancashire, in 1980. Britain now has 500 and the number is expected to double in the next five years.

More details of the Lancashire and Cumbria business people's credit union can be obtained by contacting 01772 712033.

Fairground craftsman has collectors in a spin

By DAVID ASKHAM

Nostalgia is as strong as it used to be, as Woody White discovered when he launched his specialist woodcarving business in Somerset in 1987. Very few craftsmen, particularly in the United Kingdom, were able to replicate classical fairground animals and build ornate fairground organ fronts. In a very few years his skills have become recognised by collectors worldwide and his work is also much in demand by fairground operators.

It was disenchantment with the building industry that caused Mr White to start his own business, working initially in his home-based workshop. But the arrival of a commission to build and carve a new organ front forced him to look around for bigger premises.

Fortunately the Rural Development Commission came to his rescue and helped him to obtain planning permission to convert two redundant farm buildings in Bleadon, his home village near Weston-super-Mare. Mr White is meticulous about the timber he uses. He procures his own timber, mostly lindenwood, and dries it in kilns which he designed and built.

Mr White's fairground animals have been exported to many countries. His main clients are in North America, Australia and Japan. Private collectors sometimes commission him to make juvenile carousels for use in fundraising for charities. Others commission specimen carved wooden animals for use as "masters" which are then replicated in synthetic materials —

a much cheaper route for commercial fairground operators.

The demand for carved wooden fairground animals for use as lounge furniture really surprised Mr White. One client asked him to make a full-size unicorn. It became the first of several ordered by other people.

The inspiration for new carvings often comes from discussions with his customers. Sometimes they send him photographs or drawings which provide the basis for a new subject. Typical examples are a Japanese bear for the Orient and a fire-breathing dragon for New York.

Research is very important when tackling a well-known subject such as galloping horses for a fairground ride. Mr White explains: "There are very traditional designs for fairground horses, in England and America. For example, English horses go round clockwise, whereas American gallopers ride anticlockwise."

Mr White has employed a young apprentice and his son, Matthew, works full-time in the machine workshop. Mr White also devotes Monday evenings to training students and last year sponsored a Russian woodcarver for a month while he learnt how to carve English fairground animals.

Prices range from £300 for a painted miniature horse, through £1,350 for a painted unicorn for a lounge, to £2,200 for a full-size carousel figure.

Mr White can be contacted on 01934 815374.



Woody White is recognised worldwide for his woodcarving skills

Too many companies 'have overlooked EU work time directive'

By WIDGET FINN

Many companies providing business and facilities management services have underestimated the potential impact of the European Union's working time directive, according to the Business Services Association.

Norman Rose, director-general, says that while attention has focused on the prospect of a 48-hour working week, the regulations covering other aspects of working life, from the length and frequency of daily and weekly rest periods to the duration of annual leave, have been overlooked. He also says that the directive will impose an additional burden on record-keeping.

The Business Services Association has submitted a paper to the Department of Trade and Industry outlining problems that it claims the directive will cause.

Mr Rose says: "The business services industry uses a variety of working patterns, from continuous and split shifts to days plus overtime in order to provide the customer with a flexible service that can quickly adapt to seasonal and special function requirements. At a catering establishment, for example, it is often difficult to predict customer flow, which can be erratic in response to the weather, time, opportunities to eat or drink, social factors or the unpredictable outcome of the main attraction. This is particularly true of sporting or other outdoor events."

"Customers at airports, stations, shopping and leisure centres place demanding requirements on the providers of cleaning, catering, maintenance and security services who must provide a consistently

high level of service whatever the traffic flow." Potential problems cited by the association are:

Daily rest periods

The directive stipulates a rest period of 11 hours in each 24 hours. This could affect split shifts or shift rotas where an employee moves from one shift to another.

Shift patterns

It may be impossible to extend shifts to cover unforeseen demand, staff absences or equipment failures.

Weekly rest periods

The directive requires a weekly uninterrupted rest period of at least 24 hours in addition to the daily rest period. This may stop employees from voluntarily earning overtime payments.

Maximum working week

The stipulation is 48 hours including overtime. The association says some employees wish to work well beyond 48 hours for personal or financial reasons. In some occupations it would be detrimental to a particular process for workers not to be able to work longer.

Paid annual leave

The minimum under the directive is three weeks, rising to four in 1999. Where blue-collar workers receive two weeks' holiday, the entitlement will be doubled. This could add 4 per cent to overheads.

The association is urging the Government to make maximum use of escape clauses. In particular it wants managers to be excluded. It says companies that maintain records purely for calculating wages will have to establish new procedures and train supervisory and management staff to keep cumulative totals of hours worked.

BRIEFINGS

Many salons use self-employed stylists to stay below the VAT limit. A VAT tribunal has ruled that the charge is taxable.

An introduction to the commercial uses of the Internet, with the emphasis on jargon-busting, is being given in a seminar by Sussex Business Link at the Jarvis Hotel, Chichester, on August 20. Cost: £20 plus VAT. Details: 0345 830345.

Seminars for employers and employees on tax self-assessment will be held in locations around the country by Fraser Russell, chartered accountants. Details from Maureen Forbes on 01942 550631.

Technology use by small businesses has more than doubled in a decade, says a report from NatWest and the Open University's Small Business Research

Trust. For example, 83 per cent use a fax, compared with 31 per cent in 1988; 67 per cent have an answering machine and 33 per cent a mobile phone, against 33 per cent and 22 per cent respectively.

Members of a business leadership team set up by the South London Training and Enterprise Council are to visit small companies to listen to their problems. In conjunction with London First,

which aims to attract business to the capital, they hope to be able to suggest solutions as part of a campaign to promote prosperity in south London.

A free booklet on growing your business has been produced by Mercury One-2-One in conjunction with the Federation of Small Businesses. Phone 0161 248 6266.

Penguin Books and Cosmopolitan magazine have published the *Cosmopolitan Guide to Working in Finance*, aimed specifically at women.

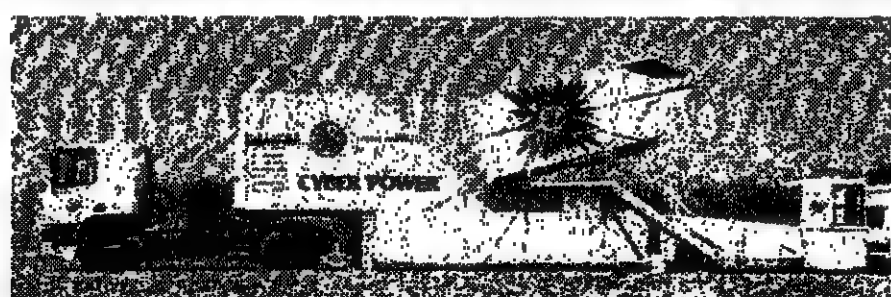
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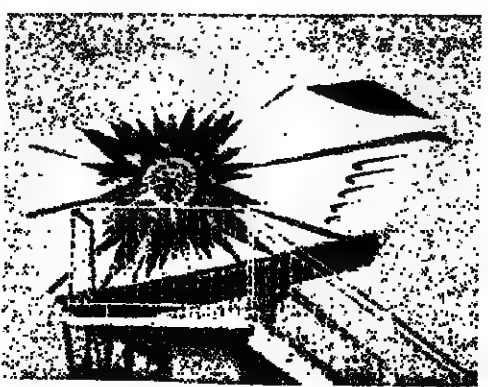
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A New home - income detached house with 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 10 toilets, 10 showers, 10 baths, 10 kitchens, 10 living rooms, 10 dining rooms, 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 10 toilets, 10 showers, 10 baths, 10 kitchens, 10 living rooms, 10 dining rooms.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A New home - income detached house with 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 10 toilets, 10 showers, 10 baths, 10 kitchens, 10 living rooms, 10 dining rooms, 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 10 toilets, 10 showers, 10 baths, 10 kitchens, 10 living rooms, 10 dining rooms.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Pick the best football team and win £50,000

Never has a new season promised so much. Football's homecoming, with the success of Euro 96 and the arrival of some of the world's most exciting players for some of the most astonishing transfer fees, has raised the game's popularity to even higher planes.

And you can play your part again this season. Interactive Team Football (ITF), the state-of-the-art football game, returns bigger and better. The Times, in association with Sky Sports Interactive, is offering you the chance to show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Carling Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League. That expertise will be rewarded, too, with a £50,000 prize for the winning team selector and a further £1,000 going to the selector of the best team of the month and £250 for the best team of the week throughout the season.

You have £35 million with which to assemble your ITF team and then, week by week, juggle your squad with a wary eye on the transfer market. You will be able to respond to changes in a player's form and fitness with careful buying and selling and, just as every manager must keep the man with the purse strings happy, you must always keep within your £35 million budget.

Not only will you be pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you will also be matching your

wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), current Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own.

So what do you have to do? You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager. Study the lists of players in the five categories — goalkeepers, full backs, central defenders, midfield players and strikers — and the price of each. You must select a team in 4-4-2 formation, including one goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players and two strikers. You must pick a manager — who will have a price tag too.

All the players and managers have been allotted a five-digit code. Once you have selected your ITF team, you may enter it by post or telephone, using the entry form below. Then it is down to your players to score the points to take you to the top of the selectors' league. All matches from Saturday August 17 in the FA Carling Premiership, the Bell's Scottish League premier division and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs and the Tennents Scottish Cup involving premier division clubs will count.

But how should you choose your team? The essential rules are that you cannot have more than two individuals (two players or one player and the manager) from any one club in your team, you may not pick the same player twice and that you must not exceed your budget of £35 million. For



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example, if you select as your strikers the Liverpool pairing of Stan Collymore and Robbie Fowler, that will take up your Liverpool allocation. If, however, one of your selected midfield players, say Paul Gascoigne, leaves Rangers to join Liverpool, you will then have three at the Anfield club — but you need not worry. ITF has an active transfer system, which is in operation from Saturday August 17 and you will be able to adjust your team accordingly. You must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget. Equally, if one of your players is transferred out of the Premiership or Scottish League premier division, he is no longer eligible for ITF. Any players from outside the Premiership or Scottish League premier division that are transferred to

clubs playing in the top level during the season will become available for transfer.

You have almost two weeks in which to enter a team and you may enter as many times as you like. Postal entries will start scoring as soon as they are processed and telephone entries made by 12 noon will start scoring from that day onwards.

Your players and manager will win and lose you points. Points are awarded depending on every goal scored and conceded with three points earned for a goalkeeper or defender (full back and central defender) scoring a goal, two points for a midfielder player or striker scoring, three points for a defender keeping a clean sheet (not letting in a goal), four points for a goalkeeper maintaining a clean sheet, one point for a midfielder player keeping a clean sheet and all players receive one point for appearing in a match (providing they play for 45 minutes in that game). Any player scoring a hat-trick will receive six bonus points. To secure points for a clean sheet, a player must have played for at least 75 minutes in that match.

Points will be deducted for every goal a defender concedes (one), every goal a goalkeeper concedes (two), every booking a player receives (one), every time a player is sent off (three) and a point each for a penalty conceded by a player, a penalty missed and every own goal scored by a player.

If you have selected Kevin Keegan as your manager, you will earn three points if Newcastle United win, one

point if they draw and have a point docked if they lose. If Keegan was dismissed or moved to a club outside the Premiership or Scottish League premier division, you would have to buy a new manager for your team.

There are two methods by which you may enter:

By post: fill in the entry form on pages 6 and 7 (there is a step-by-step guide provided) showing the team in formation (photocopies are not acceptable) and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football* to Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ to arrive by noon on Saturday, August 17. You will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and team. The entry fee for registrations outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is £5.

By telephone: using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone, call 0891 405 011 to record your team following the simple step-by-step instructions. Calls will be charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times). Each call will last about eight minutes but will cost approximately double from a pay phone. The registration line for readers entering from the Republic of Ireland is 004 4990 100 320. Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed your selection and the selector given a PIN.

All ITF queries should be directed to 01582 488 122.

EXCLUSIVE TO ITF ENTRANTS

WIN A UNIQUE SOUVENIR OF EURO 96



A moment of history was made in Euro 96 when Gary and Philip Neville became the first brothers since the Charltons to be selected for England. To celebrate this event we have 20 Mitre footballs and 50 England shirts signed by the brothers to give away to players who enter *The Times* ITF by Friday August 16, 1996. The winners will be selected at random and notified by August 30. No purchase necessary. Mitre is the official football of *The Times* ITF.

PLAY ITF ON-LINE

Play on-line to win all the great ITF prizes, including the £50,000 first prize. Plus play for special Internet prizes, such as the £1,000 top prize and the £250 monthly prize. You can also check your position in the internet league instantly, on-line.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Enter *The Times* Internet Edition at <http://www.the-times.co.uk>
2. Look for the special ITF button.
3. Entry on-line costs £7.50, payable only by credit card. This allows you to make transfers for the entire season.

COMPETE IN A LEAGUE WITH YOUR FRIENDS — NEW ITF MINI LEAGUES

This season you and your friends can compete directly against each other in your own ITF Mini-League all you need are four or more people (up to a maximum of 100) and a nominated chairperson.

A Mini-League is simple to set up and costs only £2.50 extra. A Mini-League may only be entered by post. Each player must enclose his or her ITF application form in the normal way (see entry instructions on these pages).

All payments and entry forms must be in the same envelope along with the attached

form and your additional £2.50, payable to *The Times* Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ. You cannot add members to your Mini-League after your initial entry.

The fee is £5 sterling for a Mini-League for entrants outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Further details are available from 01582 488 122.

Each month, a letter will be sent to the chairperson showing the position of all entrants in their Mini-League.

MINI LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

I enclose all team entries in the same envelope along with an additional cheque/postal order for £2.50. Please set up my Mini-League.

Chairperson's name

Mini-League name

I enclose entry forms with £2 entry fee each, plus an extra £2.50 to set up my mini league.

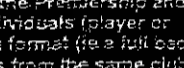
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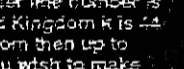
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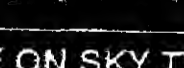
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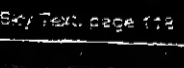
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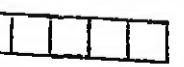
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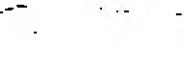
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HOW TO PLAY

You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.

You must pick:

- 1 GOALKEEPER
- 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS
- 2 STRIKERS
- 2 FULL BACKS
- 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS
- 1 MANAGER

Choose your players and manager from the Interactive Team Football category lists (which include code numbers and values). The total value of your 11 players and manager must not exceed £35 million.

You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club and no player can be picked twice.

Your players and manager accumulate points in all 1996-97 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League, Premiership and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 17 onwards. Every goal they score or concede counts towards your total. The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Fill in the entry form on the back right. Photocopies are not acceptable, and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football* to Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ. The entry fee for registrations outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is £5, which may only be made by post.

Postal entries must be received prior to Saturday August 17 and telephone entries must be made by 12 noon on Saturday August 17 in order to start scoring from the beginning of the season. Postal entries will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of their Personal Identification Number (PIN) and team.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or 'pusher' telephone. You can enter your team by dialling 0891 405 011 (from the Republic of Ireland you must dial 004 4990 100 320).

Then follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Listen carefully and take your time. The recorded message will ask you to tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and your manager. In the following order: the goalkeeper, the two full backs, the two central defenders, the four midfield players, the two strikers and the manager. You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address (with postcode) and daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times Interactive Team Football* form, right, to record your selections and your PIN. Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times). Each call will last about eight minutes. Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed each selection. You will be notified of your PIN at the end of the call. No postal notification will be sent.

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

Interactive Team Football has an active transfer system to allow you to respond to changes in form and fitness and to players moving in and out of the Premiership and Scottish League premier division. You may transfer up to two individuals (player or manager) during a transfer period but you must keep to the team format (ie a full back must be replaced by a full back and no more than two individuals from the same club) and you must keep within the £35 million budget. If a player moves teams during the season and it affects the composition of your team, you must set (ie if you have two Arsenal players and one of your other players moves to Arsenal, you will have three players from the same club and will need to adjust it). You should use the transfer line to correct the situation to avoid missing out on points. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form. The transfer line number is 0891 856 566 (from the Republic of Ireland and outside the United Kingdom it is 004 4990 100 320). The line opens at 8am on Saturday August 17 and from then up to midnight on Monday August 19 you may make two changes. If you wish to make last-minute changes to your team, to be effective for that Saturday's matches, you must make them by 12 noon on Saturday August 17. The transfer week then runs from 00.01 on Tuesdays to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before 12 noon on any day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches played after 12 noon the following day. You may only make a transfer by telephone. You will need your PIN. New players score points when the transfer is registered.

PRIZES

The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like.

LIVE ON SKY TV
PRESS SKY
SPORTS TEXT
PAGE 505
See Sky Text, page 613

To enter by phone call
0891 405 011

Calls cost 39p per min (cheap rate, 49p per min at other times). Calls should last approximately 8 min. Entrants from Rep of Ireland only call 004 4990 100 320

TEAM NAME

Goalkeeper (up to 16 characters)

Full back

Central defender

Midfielder

Striker

Manager

Name

Address

Postcode

Daytime telephone no

Send your entries (with £2 entry fee) entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland (£5 sterling) to: *The Times Interactive Team Football*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) Which daily newspaper(s) do you buy?

(1) 15-24 (2) 25-34 (3) 35-44 (4) 45-54 (5) 55-64 (6) 65+

(a) regularly (b) occasionally

If you do not wish to receive select offers from *The Times* please tick box

0891 405 011

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Study the list of players and their values and pick an ITF team to beat the best

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
10101	Michael Watt	Aberdeen	1.50
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10202	Vince Bartram	Arsenal	0.75
10203	John Lukic	Arsenal	0.75
10301	Mark Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50
10302	Michael Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00
10401	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
10402	Shay Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
10501	Gordon Marshall	Celtic	3.50
10601	Dmitri Kharike	Chelsea	2.50
10602	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00
10701	Steve Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50
10702	John Fian	Coventry City	0.50
10801	Martin Taylor	Derby County	1.00
10802	Russell Hoult	Derby County	1.00
10803	Steve Sutton	Derby County	0.50
10901	Ally Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50
11001	Ian Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50
11101	Neville Southall	Everton	2.50
11102	Jason Kearton	Everton	0.50
11103	Paul Gerrard	Everton	2.50
11201	Gilles Rousset	Hearts	2.00
11301	Jim Leighton	Hibernian	1.50
11401	Dragoje Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11501	Mark Beesley	Leeds United	1.50
11502	Paul Evans	Leeds United	0.25
11503	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	2.50
11601	Kevin Poole	Leicester City	1.00
11602	Zeljko Kalac	Leicester City	0.50
11701	David James	Liverpool	5.00
11702	Tony Warner	Liverpool	0.50
11801	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
11802	Raimond van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00
11901	Gary Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50
11902	Alan Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50
12001	Scott Howie	Motherwell	1.50
12101	Shaka Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00
12102	Pavel Smicic	Newcastle United	3.50
12201	Mark Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.00
12202	Alan Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12301	Tommy Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12302	Scott Y. Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50
12401	Andy Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	Kevin Pressman	Sheffield Wed.	2.00
12601	Dave Beasant	Sheffield Wed.	1.00
12602	Neil Moss	Southampton	0.25
11803	Tony Cotton	Sunderland	1.00
12801	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
12901	Ludek Mladkoski	West Ham United	2.00
12902	Steve Mautone	West Ham United	0.50
13001	Neil Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00
13002	Paul Heald	Wimbledon	1.00

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
20101	Stewart McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00
20102	Gary Smith	Aberdeen	1.50
20201	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	Nigel Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20301	Steve Morrow	Arsenal	1.00
20302	Steve Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00
20303	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	3.00
20304	Gary Charles	Aston Villa	2.50
20305	Phil King	Aston Villa	0.25
20401	Fernando Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00
20402	Henning Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20403	Graeme Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20404	Jeff Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20501	Gary Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
20502	Jackie McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20503	Tosh McKinley	Celtic	3.00
20601	Dan Petrescu	Chelsea	2.00
20602	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	2.00
20603	Terry Phelan	Chelsea	2.00
20604	Scott Minto	Chelsea	1.00
20605	Anthony Barnes	Chelsea	0.50
20701	David Burrows	Coventry City	1.50
20702	Brian Borrows	Coventry City	1.00
20703	Marcus Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20801	Chris Powell	Derby County	1.50
20802	Dean Yates	Derby County	1.00
20803	Jason Kavanagh	Derby County	0.25
20901	Maurice Malpas	Dundee United	1.00
20902	Mark Perry	Dundee United	0.25
21001	Colin Miller	Dunfermline	0.25
21002	Andy Tod	Dunfermline	0.25
21101	Marc Hottiger	Everton	2.50
21102	Andy Hincliffe	Everton	2.00
21103	Earl Barrett	Everton	1.50
21201	Matt Jackson	Everton	1.00
21202	Gary Locke	Hearts	2.00
21203	Neil Poynton	Hearts	1.00
21301	Wille Miller	Hibernian	1.00
21302	Andy Dow	Hibernian	0.75
21401	Tom Black	Kilmarnock	0.50
21402	Gus MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50
21501	Tony Doran	Leeds United	3.00
21502	Paul Beesley	Leeds United	0.50
21503	Mike Whitlow	Leeds United	0.50
21601	Simon Grayson	Leeds United	0.50
21602	Neil Lewis	Leeds United	0.50
21603	Frank Roling	Leeds United	0.25
21701	Rob Jones	Liverpool	3.00
21702	Steve Harkness	Liverpool	1.50
21703	Stig Inge Bjornbye	Liverpool	0.50
21704	Phil Charnock	Liverpool	0.25
21801	Denis Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
21802	Gary Neville	Manchester United	3.00
21803	Phil Neville	Manchester United	2.50
21901	Neil Cox	Middlesbrough	1.50
21902	Branko	Middlesbrough	1.50
21903	Chris Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75
21904	Curtis Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.25
22001	Claudio Blackmore	Motherwell	1.00
22002	Rob McKinnon	Motherwell	0.50
22003	Stephen McKellar	Motherwell	0.50
22101	Warren Barton	Newcastle United	3.00
22102	Steve Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
22103	Robbie Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50
22104	John Berrford	Newcastle United	2.50
22201	Stuart Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00
22202	Des Lytle	Nottingham Forest	0.75
22203	Ali Inge Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00
22204	Nikola Jerkan	Nottingham Forest	2.00
22301	Paul Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75
22302	Davie Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50
22401	David Robertson	Rangers	2.50
22402	John Brown	Rangers	2.00
22501	Ian Nolan	Sheffield Wed.	1.50
22502	Peter Atherton	Sheffield Wed.	1.00
22503	Steve Nicol	Sheffield Wed.	1.00
22504	Dejan Stankovic	Sheffield Wed.	0.50
22505	Lee Briscoe	Sheffield Wed.	1.50
22601	Jason Dodd	Southampton	0.75
22602	Francis Benali	Southampton	0.75
22603	Simon Charlton	Sunderland	0.50
22701	Dariusz Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50
22702	Martin Scott	Sunderland	0.25
22703	Garth Hall	Sunderland	2.00
22801	Dan Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22802	Clive Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00
22803	Justin Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
22804	David Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00
22901	Julian Dicks	West Ham United	1.00
22902	Tim Breacker	West Ham United	1.00
22903	Keith Rowland	West Ham United	1.00
22904	Mark Bowen	West Ham United	0.50
22905	Kenny Brown	Wimbledon	1.50
23001	Ben Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75
23002	Alan Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75
23003	Ken Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75
23004	Duncan Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25
23005	Gary Elkins	Wimbledon	0.25
23006	Chris Perry	Wimbledon	0.25



Cantona will play a big part in Manchester United's attempt to regain the title. But is he worth £8.5m in ITF?

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
30101	Brian Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00
30102	Colin Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	4.00
30202	Steve Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30203	Marin Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30204	Andy Linighan	Arsenal	1.00
30205	Scott Marshall	Arsenal	1.00
30301	Garrett Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50
30302	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30303	Paul McGrath	Aston Villa	2.50
30304	Carl Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00
30305	Ricardo Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00
30401	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
30402	Ian Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30403	Chris Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30404	Nicky Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50
30501	Tommy Boyd	Celtic	3.00
30502	Malik Mackay	Celtic	1.50
30601	Michael Duberry	Chelsea	2.50
30602	Frank LeBoucq	Chelsea	2.50
30603	Frank Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
30604	David Lee	Chelsea	2.00
30605	Andy Myers	Chelsea	1.50
30606	Erlend Johnson	Chelsea	1.50
30607	Jakob Kjaer	Chelsea	0.50
30701	Liam Doherty	Coventry City	2.00
30702	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30703	David Buss	Coventry City	1.50
30801	Igor Stankovic	Derby County	2.50
30802	Darren Westall	Derby County	1.00
30803	John Pemberton	Derby County	1.00
30804	Matthew Carbon	Derby County	0.50
30901	Steven Pressley	Dundee United	1.00
30902	Brian Walsh	Dundee United	0.75
31001	Marc Milla	Dunfermline	0.75
31002	Ivo Ilic	Dunfermline	0.75
31101	David Unsworth	Everton	2.50
31102	Dave Watson	Everton	2.50
31103	Craig Short	Everton	2.00
31201	Dave McPherson	Hearts	1.00
31202	Paul Ritchie	Hearts	1.00
31301	Joe McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50
31302	Gordon Hunter	Hibernian	0.50
31401	Mark Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00
31402	Ray Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75
31501	David Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50
31502	Richard Johnson	Leeds United	1.00
31503	Lucas Radebe	Leeds United	1.00
31601	John Molyneux	Leeds United	1.00
31602	Steve Walsh	Leeds United	1.00
31701	Julian Watts	Leeds United	1.00
31801	Fontus Karamark	Leeds United	0.50
31702	John Babb	Liverpool	3.50
31703	Mark Wright	Liverpool	3.50
31704	Neil Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00
31705	Dominic Matteo	Liverpool	1.00
31801	Gary Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
31802	David May	Manchester United	3.00
31803	Ronnie Johnson	Manchester United	2.50
31901	Nigel Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50
31902	Steve Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50
31903	Derek Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50
31904	Phil Whelan	Middlesbrough	1.00
32001	Brian Martin	Motherwell	0.75
32002	Michel van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75
32101	Philippe Albert	Newcastle United	4.50
32102	Steve Sinton	Newcastle United	3.00
32103	Darren Prescott	Newcastle United	3.00
32201	Colin Cooper	Nottingham Forest	2.50
32202	Steve Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50
32301	Shaun Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00
32401	Richard Doughty	Rangers	3.50
32402	Alan McLellan	Rangers	1.00
32501	Jon Newsome	Sheffield Wed.	2.00
32502	Des Walker	Sheffield Wed.	1.50
32503	Brian Linighan	Sheffield Wed.	0.25
32601	Ken Monkou	Southampton	2.50
32602	Alan Nelson	Southampton	1.00
32701	Andrew McVie	Sunderland	1.00
32702	Kevin Ball	Sunderland	1.00
32703	Richard Ord	Sunderland	0.50
32801	Sol Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
32804	Jason Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
32805	Kevin Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
32806	Stuart Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
32901	Steven Bilic	West Ham United	2.50
32902	Marc Rieper	West Ham United	2.50
32903	Steve Potts	West Ham United	2.00
32904	Richard Hall	West Ham United	1.50
32905	Rob Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50
32906	Adrian Whitbread	West Ham United	0.25
33001	Alan Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00
33002	Andy Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75
33003	Andy Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75
33004	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50
33005	Brian McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50
33006	Scott Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
40101	Dean Windass	Aberdeen	3.00
40102	Stephen Glass	Aberdeen	3.00
40103	Paul Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50
40104	Ilan Krikor	Aberdeen	2.50
40201	David Platt	Arsenal	4.50
40202	Paul Merson	Arsenal	4.00
40203	Ray Parlour	Arsenal	2.00
40204	Glenn Helder	Arsenal	1.50
40205	Ian Selley	Arsenal	0.50
40206	David Hillier	Arsenal	0.50
40207	Eddie McGoldrick	Arsenal	0.50
40301	Mark Draper	Aston Villa	4.00
40302	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50
40303	Ian Taylor	Aston Villa	1.00
40304	Garrett Farrelly	Aston Villa	0.50
40305	Jason Wilcox	Aston Villa	4.00
40401	Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
40402	Garry Fittcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40403	Billy McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40404	Ben Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40405	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
40406	George Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
40407	Stuart Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	0.75
40408	Gary Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75
40501	Paul McStay	Celtic	3.00

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
40502	Andreas Thom	Celtic	2.50
40503	Simon Donnelly	Celtic	2.50
40504	Peter Grant	Celtic	1.50
40601	Ruud Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
40602	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	3.00
40603	Gavin Peacock	Chelsea	2.50
40604	Craig Burley	Chelsea	2.00
40605	Eddie Newton	Chelsea	2.00
40606	David Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50
40607	Roberto di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00
40701	Gary McAllister	Coventry City	5.50
40702	John Salako	Coventry City	2.50
40703	Eoin Jess	Coventry City	2.00
40704	Kevin Richardson	Coventry City	1.50
40705	Paul Williams	Coventry City	1.50
40706	Isaiah	Coventry City	0.50
40707	Willie Boland	Coventry City	0.25
40708	Michael O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50
40801	Aljosa Asanovic	Derby County	2.00
40802	Paul Simpson	Derby County	1.50
40803	Robin van der Laan	Derby County	1.50
40804	Darryl Powell	Derby County	1.00
40805	Sean Flynn	Derby County	0.75
40806	David Prosser	Derby County	0.50
40807	Gary Rowley	Derby County	0.50
40808	Paul Trollope	Derby County	0.50
40809	Christian Dailly	Derby County	1

NEWS

Post Office loses letters monopoly

The Post Office's monopoly on delivering letters was suspended for a month after union leaders announced four more one-day strikes to follow today's stoppage.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said that for the first time in 25 years, private companies would be allowed to deliver letters with a postage of less than 1p. There are no plans for talks about the dispute and more strikes were announced for August 14, 22 and 30 and September 2.

Benefit informants set lines buzzing

Hundreds of callers used the new national confidential "shop-a-benefit-cheat" telephone line within hours of its launch. More than 200 rang within the first 60 minutes of the service being set up by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. The day's total was 1,650.

Ringing the changes

Plans to introduce a new system of telephone codes just 16 months after the last major overhaul were criticised by consumers facing a multi-million pound bill to accommodate the changes.

March banned

Police in Belfast banned a loyalist parade from passing through a nationalist area of the city in the hope of reducing sectarian tensions during a weekend of contentious marches.

Blair policy shift

Tony Blair is preparing to delay introduction of the Social Chapter and to abandon Labour's commitment to co-opting workers on to company boards in a radical shift of European policy.

Farmer shot burglar

A farmer who marked his property with a sign "Never mind the dog, beware of the owner", fired at a burglar with a shotgun, a court was told.

Highway robbery

Teenage muggers who terrorised Cambridge were jailed after a judge branded them modern-day highwaymen. Many victims were undergraduates.

Cattle cull call

Beef farmers called for a radical extension of the cattle cull, including the option of slaughtering whole herds that have had a case of "mad cow" disease.

Royal Mail delivers stamp controversy

A new Royal Mail set of stamps of "great 20th-century women" celebrating the sculptor Elisabeth Frink, the scientist Dorothy Hodgkin, the ballerina Margot Fonteyn, the author Daphne du Maurier and the sports administrator Marea Hartman brought protests from the worlds of writing, acting, music and publishing about better candidates.

Abortion dilemma

An obstetrician is refusing to tell a patient that anti-abortion organisations are offering her thousands of pounds if she decides against aborting one of her healthy unborn twins.

Off the hooker

Prostitutes who persistently advertise in telephone boxes are to have all calls to their number blocked in an attempt to banish their cards, which are placed by £100-a-day "carders".

Roman Britain

Verulamium was every bit as prosperous as today's St Albans: it had exquisite mosaics, a fine theatre, hypocausts and what may have been Britain's first public lavatory.

Israeli peace plan

The Israeli Government has submitted a secret peace proposal to Syria via the United States last weekend and is hopeful of a positive reply.

Dole tax carrot

Bob Dole called for \$548 billion of tax cuts to galvanise his presidential campaign, including a 15 per cent across-the-board personal income tax cut.

ANC audit rejected

The ANC has rejected a call for an independent audit of its finances after President Mandela was allegedly involved in a corruption scandal.



Bob Champion on Aldani, with whom he won the Grand National, in the Mall on the last leg of his "Ride for Life" from the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh to Buckingham Palace. The three-week ride aims to raise £1 million for cancer research.

BUSINESS

Interest hopes: An unexpected fall in industrial output during June resurrected hopes of an autumn interest rate cut.

Banking: Shares in HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, jumped 48p to 116p after the group unveiled better than expected half-year results.

Newspapers: Pearson, the media and entertainment group, is to sell Westminster Press for £305 million to Newsquest Media, a British company backed by America's leading buyout firm.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 17.7 points to close at 3788.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 84.1 to 84.2 after a rise from \$1.5425 to \$1.5437 and from DM22.795 to DM22.865.

SPORT

Olympic Games: Success at the Games will only come at a price as standards improve. The Government must show more than a passing concern for the British display in Atlanta.

Crickets: Only 7,000 tickets have been sold for the first day on Thursday of the critical second Test match between England and Pakistan at Headingley.

Golf: Laura Davies, of Britain, further enhanced her reputation on the world stage when won her fourth major championship in a whirlwind finish.

Rugby union: Martin Offiah, who has signed to become a cross-code player, has been confirmed as a contender for the British Lions tour of South Africa.

ARTS

Images of art: Intense, disturbing, compelling and intriguing: those are the words to describe the current show at Oxford's Museum of Modern Art.

Cinematic aid: Geoff Brown has doubts about government proposals to fund the ailing British film industry through the National Lottery.

Damp drama: Robin Lefevre's production of Brian Friel's *Translations* is on at the Abbey in Dublin, but it doesn't have the vigour or energy to impress.

Music man: Mikhail Pletnev and his Russian National Orchestra, which boasts some of the country's greatest players, are coming to the Proms at the Albert Hall this week.

BODY AND MIND

Mind watching: The mystery of dreaming: the meaning of dreams; sit comfortably and meditate; can machines really think like humans?

Twice as good, twice as bad: The joys and problems of coping with twins must never be underestimated.

Astonishing courage: Valentin Dikul broke his back in a circus accident. He worked out how to walk again and now helps others.

LAW

Law unto themselves: Is the present age of criminal responsibility for children really doing them justice?

Woolf report: His plans for streamlining the civil justice system may actually end up increasing costs.

Superlawyer: Can the new legal recruitment agencies that are springing up really provide what the law firms need?

THE PAPERS

The Atlanta Games were fun despite their rough edges and single moment of profound sadness. Future Olympic Games may well be every bit as big and bold and brassy. But step carefully. Big and bold is close to elephantine and inert. And as Atlanta showed, the Games are getting closer to that line every day.

TOMORROW

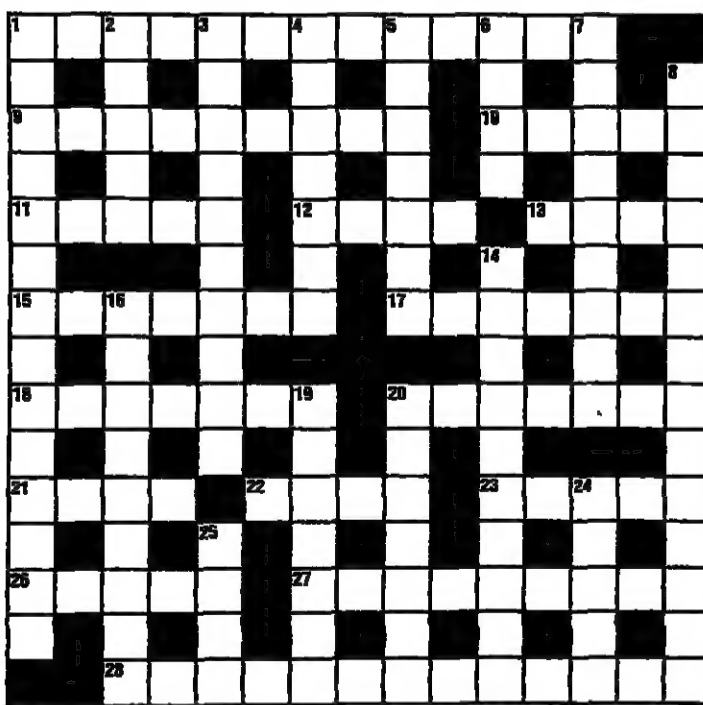
IN THE TIMES

FASHION
Winning looks: Iain R. Webb on no-sweat sportswear, the season's smartest style

PROPERTY
In search of the perfect middleman: your guide to Britain's top 40 estate agents



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,239



- ACROSS**
- Honour among thieves (5,2,6).
 - Policeman restricts parking within popular zone (9).
 - Chaos as fun characters go dancing (5).
 - Top man on board to make picture of boat (5).
 - Means of cooking duck and some venison (4).
 - Crack marksman (4).
 - Seamen giving assessments of the Channel (7).
 - One who gradually gets to the point as bringer of light? (7).
 - Stone-throwers in the animal kingdom (7).
 - Rising, perhaps, to embrace old gentlemen (7).
 - Such a small confection requires light touch (4).
 - Points way to building by Wren? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,238

TOBACCO MEDIANE
RACARUPE
IRON CARBOARD
PICKHARDU
PIECEMEAL WINTER
ERSC
REALM TOUCHWOOD
GORNED
STERNWARD REEL
OARE
LASER CORKSCREW
UTICWATL
BOATHOUSE PIUTO
LEIRAINR
EFFECTS RIDHEAD

- DOWN**
- Outstanding triumph encompassed by own goal initially (5).
 - Flower gardener honestly displays (5).
 - Star court involved examiner (9).
 - Motorway part remained unappreciated (13).
 - Baggy clothes for New Yorkers (14).
 - It may be liquid donkey consumed audibly (5).
 - Level passed — just (4-6).
 - Acquires understanding in depth (7).
 - Important chap accepting a payment in advance (7).
 - Flower-girl stood up in the window (4).
 - Enormous hit mother's idol appears in likewise (9).
 - Unable to catch kid identified to police? (6-8).
 - Airway's security flap as one pilot gets clobbered (10).
 - Convert trains for rerouting around north (9).
 - Let it be! Issue is something for the head to take on (7).
 - Deliver a television without charge (3,4).
 - Enthusiastic about including run in start of jazz piece (5).
 - Account of players embracing opponents (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500. Followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London: 701
North London: 702
South London: 703
East London: 704
West London: 705
North Midlands: 706
South Midlands: 707
East Midlands: 708
West Midlands: 709
North Wales: 710
South Wales: 711
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